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THE  TIMES

No 61,718 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21 1983 (20p)

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Sackcloth ...
David Hewson reveals why BBC people are wringing their hands.

And ashes
Bernard Levin might not be addicted to tobacco, but he would defend to the death people's right to smoke.



Through a glass ...
The Books Page features a beery history and the biography of the Catholic priest who was the model for Dorian Gray.

Darkly
The subject of the Times Profile is Roald Dahl, writer of charming children's fantasies and ghoulish tales for grown-ups.

Pension rise plan may cost £350m

The Treasury is planning to ask about 2.5 million teachers, council and health service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of their salary. It is estimated that it would cost employees up to £350m Page 2

Early holiday for Commons

The Government took the unusual step of announcing months in advance that the Commons will rise for Easter in the week ending April 13. Easter is late next year.

Spain unhappy

Madrid's growing exasperation with Paris over both Basque refugees and EEC entry provided a difficult backdrop to talks between President Mitterrand and Señor Gonzalez Page 8

NGA action

Lawyers representing the National Graphical Association and High Court sequestrators have met in an attempt to resolve a dispute over the "export" of union funds to Dublin



£7.6m arts aid

A £7.6m package to aid the Royal Shakespeare Company, the *Royal Opera House and* several regional opera companies has been announced Page 2

Moors killer ill

Ian Brady, serving a life sentence in Gartree prison, Leicestershire, for the Moors murders, has been admitted to the prison hospital. His weight has dropped from 13st to 7st 12lb

Thatcher wish

Mrs Thatcher would choose to be Mother Teresa of Calcutta if there was a chance to be anyone else, she revealed on television

Rate-capping Bill faces strongest test in the Lords

By Julian Haviland and Hugh Clayton

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided that he would have to resign if Parliamnnt fails to enact the Rates Bill published yesterday.

But in private, as in public, he has expressed no doubt that the Bill, which will limit the power of local authorities to raise rates, will become law without major changes. His talk of resigning is a mark of this apparent confidence.

At the same time, there have been new signs that Mr Jenkin is concerned at the strength of opposition being assembled against the Bill in the House of Lords.

In discussions with peers he has suggested that the Bill raises constitutional questions for them, since its provisions are concerned with taxation and expenditure and since it was promised in a manifesto endorsed by the electorate.

The second point is one on *which members of the unelected* House are sensitive. But the first carries an implied threat which Conservative peers yesterday did not like, and which *they consider empty.*

Under the Parliament Act, 1911, the House of Lords has no power to amend a money Bill, dealing with such matters as taxation and *money supply.*

But the definition of a money Bill under the Act excludes, according to Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice,* "taxation, *money or loan* raised by local authorities for local purposes".

There is no doubt that the Bill will be strongly resisted by many Conservative, as well as Opposition and cross-bench peers, who will be within their constitutional rights.

The Bill, which received its first Commons reading yesterday, *showed that the Government* has rejected almost all criticism from its own supporters about "capping" rates of *councils which ignore* government spending guidelines and issue soaring rate demands.

Probable timetable

1984

Spring: Rates Bill becomes law.

Summer: Ministers reveal councils to be capped.

December: Individual rate support grants for 1985 announced; councils to be capped learn rate ceilings.

1985

January: Capped councils expected to "appeal".

March: Government seeks Commons approval of capping.

April: Demands issued to ratepayers; capped councils must include signed guarantee that demands are within government ceilings – otherwise ratepayers can refuse to pay.

The Bill will require ministers to name the first candidates *for "capping" in the middle of* 1984. It sets out two powers. One will enable ministers to list what they consider the most outrageous high-spenders in one *year and fix legally-enforceable* ceilings to their rates for the next.

Mr Jenkin said yesterday that rate demands above government ceilings from "capped councils" *would not be legally* enforceable.

The plans will probably affect only Labour-led authorities. Prime candidates if such powers were available now would include the Greater London Council, several London *boroughs and some Labour-led* county councils.

But the Bill *includes a reserve* power to "cap" rates of all councils in England and Wales. *Mr Jenkin, aware of strong* Conservative opposition to the general proposal, insisted that its main purpose was to act as a deterrent – "to be used only if *absolutely necessary.*"

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, described the Bill as "a much-needed restraint on the tiny minority of town and county halls which have for too long been spending beyond their means."

The Bill attracted little support elsewhere, despite the presence of powers to exempt hundreds of councils, most led by Conservatives.

Councils whose total spending is less than £10m a year will be exempt from selective "*capping*", and the Bill allows ministers to remove particular councils from the reserve general scheme.

The Bill also entitles ministers to seek parliamentary powers to raise the £10m spending barrier below which councils cannot be earmarked for selective rate-capping. But *the Association of District*

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Target practice: Pie-in-the-face day for the Prince of Wales during a visit to a newly-opened community centre in Manchester yesterday. Katie Slater, aged 15, gained royal assent before launching her foam pie at the Prince (top) and Mr Stephen Starkie, director of Bolton's Hallucination Theatre, became the target of the Prince.

Thatcher refuses to act over oil rig

By David Felton and Philip Webster

The Government last night made clear that it has no *intention of intervening in the* growing political storm over the cancellation of an £86m oil rig contract at the Scott Lithgow Yard on the Lower Clyde. More than 8,000 jobs are threatened.

Ministers, led by the Prime Minister, resolutely refused in *the Commons to be drawn into* the wrangle over the cancellation of the order for the semi-submersible rig by a consortium headed by Britoil. There are signs that the contractual dispute will now go before the courts.

Scott Lithgow, which employs more than 4,200 workers at its Greenock Yard issued a writ yesterday against Lloyds Leasing, owners of the rig which *is being built for Britoil and Ben* Odeco. It claims that Britoil's cancellation of the order was "invalid".

Union leaders who pressed *ministers to intervene* and bring pressure on Britoil to renegotiate rather than cancel the contract said that, without reversal of the cancellation, the yard could close with the loss of 6,000 jobs in ancillary industries on top of those employed at the yard.

Last night, the executive of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union met in London to consider the results of a ballot among its 30,000 members at British Shipbuilders. This showed a majority in favour of supporting a national strike over pay and productivity.

The executive was under pressure to suspend the strike call in view of the crisis at Scott Lithgow.

Mrs Thatcher said during question time in the Commons that the Greenock Yard had "an abysmal record" for building rigs and ships to budget and on time. Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said later, during angry scenes, that government intervention would be counter-productive.

Under pressure from Opposition MPs to urge Britoil to renegotiate the contract, Mr Lamont said that it was not in the national interest to pour good money after bad, and he blamed the cancellation on inefficiency, poor performance, late delivery and massive losses

A delegation from the Scottish TUC yesterday *told* Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, that closure of the yard would double the male unemployment rate on the lower Clyde to about 40 per cent.

The rig was due for completion next April but has 30 per cent completed. It is said to be 500 days behind schedule. Britoil claims that Scott Lithgow had refused on several occasions to renegotiate the terms of the contract and that as a result it had no alternative but to cancel the order.

Police trace dealer who sold bomb car

By Stewart Tendler

The Austin 1300 GT used by Provisional IRA terrorists to bomb Harrods was bought for cash by a man answering an advertisement in a London local newspaper last *month.*

The car was offered for sale for a few hundred pounds by a part-time dealer who often trades in old vehicles.

The buyer turned up at the dealer's house at night after telephoning and left with the blue car, registration KFP 252K, following the pattern used by another Provisional IRA group operating in London some years ago. They too acquired a vehicle through an advertisement and then stored it.

Yesterday Commander William Hucklesby, head of the anti-terrorist squad and in charge of the search for the Harrods bombers, said that an artist's impression of the car buyer may soon be issued.

Mr Hucklesby would not say how much had been paid for the car and would not identify the dealer because evidence might later be required in a court case.

Yesterday the last of the forensic evidence from the scene of the bombing in Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, on Saturday was taken to the Metropolitan Police laboratories in Lambeth and to explosive experts at Woolwich Arsenal.

Mr Hucklesby said that 180 dustbins and seven builder's *skips filled with debris had been* taken from the street.

The police have also removed eight of the cars parked by Harrods at the time of the blast, three shop windows and the remains of green and gold Harrods canopies.

The evidence produced from the forensic investigation will be sent to the special inquiry centre, which is now spread across an entire floor at Scotland Yard. The centre and its operations room are believed to be the largest the Yard has ever assembled.

The police have brought in specialized methods of cross-reference and collation for the inquiry, which will try to pinpoint events between mid-day and 1.21 pm, when the bomb exploded in one of London's busiest streets.

They are using the knowledge gained from a course in the latest techniques of handling *data and intelligence provided* by an American company in September.

Today Mr Hucklesby will appear at the opening of inquests into the five people who died in the blast. Their post-mortem examinations took almost two days. The inquests, to be held by the Westminster coroner, *are expected to be* adjourned after a brief hearing.

Yesterday PC John Gordon, who lost his right leg when he was caught by the blast with his *alsatian sniffer dog, underwent* an operation. Surgeons may have to amputate his left leg. Scotland Yard said last night that his condition was "critical but stable".

Since the blast the police have dealt with at least 800 false alarms and yesterday two men were arrested after an attempt to hold up Lloyds Bank in Kensington High Street with a package which was claimed to *contain explosives. The bank* was evacuated for a time while the police examined the package.

There was criticism yesterday of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for holding

Continued on back page, col 6

PC John Gordon: Still in critical condition.

Ireland set to toughen law on IRA

By Richard Ford, Dublin

The Government of the Irish Republic is to consider toughening laws on incitement to violence and hatred but has *postponed a decision on* banning Provisional Sinn Fein, the Provisional IRA's political wing.

While 2,000 soldiers and police continued searching woods in Leitrim, where they believe Mr Don Tidey's Provisional IRA kidnappers are trapped, the Cabinet met in Dublin to consider a series of security reports.

Dr Garret FitzGerald promised a review of the threat posed to the state by subversives as anger mounted at the death of two members of the security forces in shoot-out during Mr Tidey's rescue.

The Government security committee met before the full Cabinet knowing some ministers favoured an immediate ban.

Eventually ministers decided to review existing legislation allowing for sentences of 20 years conviction of incitement to violence to see *if it could be* made more effective in "prosecuting and convicting those promoting the activities of unscrupulous terrorists by *incitement to violence or* hatred".

In a clear reference to Provisional Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Socialist *Party, political wing of Irish* National Liberation Army, the Cabinet also decided to consider further measures against the "insidious actions of those promoting terror activities while claiming to be unassociated with them".

***In the review the Govern*ment will consult the police and army but, more unusually, will involve Mr Charles Haughey, the opposition leader, who has promised his Fianna Fail party's support**

In its attempt to placate public opinion the Government will consider further restrictions on reports of Provisional Sinn Fein activities

Pledge to resist, page 2

Israeli jets watch Arafat's tiny armada sail away

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

Escorted by five French warships and an aircraft carrier, Mr Yassir Arafat and his 4,000 guerrillas left their last Lebanese enclave at Tripoli yesterday on-board five Greek ferryboats. They sailed under a diminutive UN flag, watched all the time by the Israeli Air Force, their military power finally extinguished by the Arabs.

The Israelis sent their reconnaissance jets to watch Mr Arafat's tiny armada sail at dusk amid the thunder of farewell gunfire from the guerrillas on deck and the explosions of rocket-propelled grenades just outside the Tripoli front line, where Mr Arafat's Palestinian and Syrian opponents were celebrating victory.

PLO officials in Tripoli were suggesting before their departure, however, that Mr Arafat may try to stage a political coup by travelling soon to Amman to *reopen negotiations with* King Husain of Jordan for autonomy on the occupied West Bank under the terms of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

Reports circulating in Tripoli said that the King would be happy to see the PLO chairman, but the Americans could well question whether Mr Arafat – if he at last decides to negotiate – any longer represents the Palestinian people.

Mr Arafat called the evacuation a sad day for the Palestinians, while Abu Jihad, *Mr Khalil Wazzir, his military* commander, talked angrily of the Syrian "conspiracy" which had brought about the PLO's departure.

Curiously, even in his moment of utter defeat, Mr Arafat appeared anxious to keep open the option of future talks with Damascus. In a short and slightly strained ceremony late on Monday night, at which he thanked the Mayor and city fathers of Tripoli for their "support" – a word with which the burghers might not have agreed – he also said that he had not asked for the battle.

● JERUSALEM: Israel last night defended its policy of veiled threats against the PLO

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Donaldson memo 'mole' dismissed

By John Witherow

A junior civil servant was dismissed from the Department of Employment yesterday for *leaking a confidential memo,* which showed that Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, gave advice to the Government on industrial *relations reforms.*

The administration trainee, a graduate who had been in the department for 18 months, was suspended earlier this month *without pay* after details of the document were published in *The Guardian* newspaper and *Time Out* magazine on November 30.

The document, which the Department of Employment said had been stolen, showed that Sir John discussed legislative proposals last year with Mr Michael Quinlan, then permanent secretary designate of the department.

Wage deals too high says Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Pay settlements are still too high and need to come down *further to improve industry's* competitiveness, the Bank of England says in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin.* But it is more optimistic about growth prospects than it was a few months ago.

The Bank has come round to the Treasury view that the economy is growing at about 3 per cent a year. It believes that improved company finances could herald a pick-up in capital spending, *which* will help to sustain the recovery once consumer spending slackens.

The Bank is still worried about industry's ability to compete internationally. The Bulletin points to big improvements in productivity in the past three years and the fall in the pound since autumn 1982 which has helped to improve competitiveness.

British costs, however are still high by international comparison and "moderation in wage increases therefore remains very important," the Bank says.

The Bank would like to see pay settlements falling faster and although deals in the new *pay round are down slightly,* inflation has fallen faster over the same period.

The Bulletin criticizes the US Administration for running a big budget deficit. This has kept interest rates higher than necessary and threatens the *continuation of the world* recovery, it says.

Further confirmation that economic activity is still picking up came yesterday with publication of the revised output measure of gross domestic product, which rose 1.2 per cent in the third quarter to a level 2.2 per cent above the third quarter of 1982. Kenneth Fleet, page 16

Satellite deal may launch UK astronaut

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

***The prospect of Britain* putting an astronaut into space came a stage nearer with the decision yesterday to *launch* British military communications satellites, using the American spacshuttle rather than the European Ariane rocket.**

Two Skynet IV satellites will be launched – the first in late 1985 and the second in 1986 – at a combined cost of £60m. As a result of choosing *the shuttle,* Britain becomes entitled to send an astronaut on a future flight.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday *that ministers* had not yet considered whether to take up the opportunity. That decision was peripheral to the main one of *determining* which launch vehicle to use.

***The Ministry has refused to* discuss any details about the selection and training of an astronaut, although it is believed that it has a short list of candidates drawn from people with experience in the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.**

The Government's decision *was announced in the Com*mons through a written reply by Mr John Lee, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement.

It will have come a a severe blow to the Ariane project and, in particular the French, who have a more than 60 per cent stake in it. The British stake is not quite 2.5 per cent.

***The Ministry of Defence* said using the shuttle was cheaper than Ariane, but Britain would continue to give Ariane full consideration for the launch of future satellites.**

Skynet IV has been designed from the start to be competitive with the shuttle, but the Ministry said the second stage *of the Skynet project would* be designed to be compatible with Ariane as well.

Skynet IV will be the first British military communi*cations satellite to be put in* orbit for more than 10 years. Skynet II is believed to be operating beyond its designed life and Skynet III was *cancelled.*

The satellites, for which British Aerospace Dynamics is the main contractor and Marconi Space and Defence Systems the equally important main sub-contractors, will be able to operate on a much larger number of channels than Skynet II.

The satellites have been designed to be resistant to electronic jamming and to be able to withstand the effect of nuclear bursts.

***Until the setback repre*sented by the British decision, the Ariane project had had a good year with successful launchings in June and October. *For the June launch, the* main payload was ECS 1, the first of five European Communications Satellites, for which British Aerospace is the prime contractor.**

£70m engine deal frozen by Leyland

Leyland Trucks has suspended a £35m investment programme at its Bathgate plant in Scotland.

The decision freezes the £70m deal with the Cummins Engine Company in the United States for a Bathgate-built engine due to go into production in 1985.

Leyland Trucks has suffered a substantial fall in foreign demand and is reviewing investment plans. The management say the company can no longer endure present trading losses. Increases in production or prices have been ruled out.

The Cummins deal, sealed 15 months ago, was described by the Leyland group chairman, Mr David Andrews, as vital for the future of Bathgate.

Union leaders at the plant have requested a meeting with the management and with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to allay fears about the plant's future.

Judgment on title deferred

A retired army colonel will have to wait until early next year to learn whether or not he will succeed to the ancient Scottish baronetcy of Dunbar of Mochrum.

Yesterday Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms reserved his judgment after hearing two days of legal debate before the Lyon court in Edinburgh. Colonel William Dunbar, aged 90, of Herne Bay, Kent is challenging the right of his cousin, Sir Jean Ivor Dunbar, a former American jockey, aged 65, of New York, to the title of 13th baronet.

Airline gifts cost £200,000

British Airways are spending £200,000 to give all of its passengers a special Christmas present this week.

Starting yesterday the airline was giving away Wedgwood plates and crystal tumblers to passengers at Heathrow airport. Children will receive records and tapes of their favourite music or stories. The airline carries 14,000 passengers a day through Heathrow and the gifts will be presented to passengers until Friday.

Seizure of sex dolls backed

Judge Anwyl-Davies, in the second part of his judgment at Southwark Crown Court, London, said yesterday that customs officers were right to seize 500 blow-up sex dolls when they arrived at Heathrow airport from West Germany in October last year.

Last week he ruled that the dolls, which he described as hideously offensive, were obscene and indecent. They were imported by Conegate Ltd, now trading as Quietlynn, which has a nationwide sex shop chain.

'£200,000 pay for dentists'

Some British dentists are earning between £100,000 and £200,000 by carrying out non-essential work, according to Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield.

"It is only a few, from what I am told, probably between 20 and 50, but it is a disgraceful situation," he said.

Public service workers may pay more to pension plans

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Treasury is to ask 2.5 million teachers, local government and National Health Service employees to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of pay.

It is estimated that this could cost employees £350m.

Official sources said ministers had decided that all public sector pensions contributions should be at "a realistic level", and Whitehall now accepted that this is the 7.9 per cent notional contribution made by the 657,000 members of the inflation-proof Civil Service scheme.

The idea has been informally floated to Civil Service union leaders that the notional 7.9 per cent contribution should be turned into an actual contribution – at no cost to either side.

Meanwhile, plans are being laid to increase the employee contributions of the 1,060,000 local government pension scheme members, the 613,000 teachers' scheme members, and the 820,000 members of the health service pension scheme.

Manual employees in the health service and local government now contribute 5 per cent of pay, while non-manuals and teachers contribute 6 per cent of pay.

Treasury sources are now talking of contributions of between 7 and 8 per cent for the indexed schemes, and the new rates could be introduced from April 1985.

The 2 per cent decision is seen as the conclusion of the Prime Minister's demand for action on inflation-proof pensions, which resulted in the Scott Report, *Inquiry into the Value of Pensions*, three years ago.

Sir Bernard Scott said then: "If the battle to contain inflation is successful, then the present considerable inequalities between pensions will diminish to more manageable proportions."

Inflation was 15.3 per cent in November 1980, compared with 4.8 per cent last month.

Ministers are also keen to point out that most inflation-proof pensions are by no means represented by some of the high-level examples often cited by the media. In the health service scheme, before last year's increase, 52.1 per cent of pensions were less than £1,000 a year.

In the teachers' scheme, before last year's rise, 26 per cent of pensions were less than £2,000 a year and another 45 per cent were between £2,000 and £4,000.



Day of desolation: A worker heading home after the announcement that the nearly completed BP rig behind him is likely to be Scott Lithgow's last job (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Ship towns fear catastrophe

By David Black

The now seemingly inevitable closure of British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard will mean a virtual end to shipbuilding in the Lower Clyde.

For 272 years the yard has been the main employer in the Inverclyde area. Its demise would turn Port Glasgow and Greenock into one of Britain's biggest areas of unemployment, and Inverclyde is now bracing itself for this social catastrophe.

Cancellation of the Britoil rig this week had been expected in the yard and in the community for more than five months. The announcement numbed rather than outraged the people of Port Glasgow and Greenock.

Most feel the workforce has been conditioned by the months of speculation over their future. Today there is a feeling of defeat in the towns in spite of moves by politicians and union leaders to avert closure.

The loss of 4,500 jobs by next spring would raise male unemployment from its present 16 per cent to between 35 and 40 per cent.

On the Lower Clyde it would leave only British Shipbuilders' small Ferguson Ailsa yard in Port Glasgow and the John Kincaid engine works which together employ barely 1,500.

A decade of recession has also seen the town's textile and sugar industries collapse, only one other large employer remains – IBM, with a workforce of 2,500.

Yesterday Greenock's provost, Mr Harry Mulholland, predicted the closure would cost a further 4,000 jobs in the area. He said: "The town would probably never recover."

Ten years ago Scott was involved in submarine and other naval construction. Lithgow then built tankers, and together they employed more than 10,000.

A example of the town's plight is the fact that more than 8,000 applications were received last month by IBM.

The Fraser of Allender Institute has given a warning that the closure would cause ripples far beyond the Lower Clyde. It estimates a total of 8,500 redundancies could follow within 12 months, some as far away as the West Midlands.

Harrods car bomb policemen fight for their lives

By Michael Horsnell

The two policemen critically injured in the Harrods car bombing were fighting for their lives yesterday as more victims spoke of their ordeal.

PC John Gordon, aged 30, a dog handler who lost his right leg and fingers on his right hand, is in danger of losing his other leg, Westminster Hospital said. Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, remains critically ill with severe head injuries and burns.

PC Gordon successfully came through a two-hour operation yesterday. But afterwards, Mr Malcolm Lennox, the operation coordinator, said: "We are dreadfully concerned about his left leg. There is a possibility that he may lose it."

Surgeons were pleased with the way PC Gordon's wounds were healing, but his kidneys remained the main worry. Mr Lennox said: "He is on a haemo-dialysis machine and the major threat to his life is his kidney function."

Had PC Gordon not been at the peak of physical condition he would not have survived. He was aware he had lost a leg but did not know of the concern for his other leg.

Inquests on Sergeant Noel Lane and WPC Jane Arbuthnot, who died in the bombing, will be opened at Westminster Coroner's Court today. Their funerals will not be arranged until after the inquests.

At Harrods, Miss Arbuthnot's parents, accompanied by her two brothers and sister, walked silently past the place where she died. Mrs Susan Arbuthnot said: "I think Jane would have been pleased that we have come. That is why we are here."

Mrs Arbuthnot and her husband, John, bought dark scarves and two black ties at the store before being driven home by Sergeant Micheal Thwaite, from Chelsea police station, who was with Miss Arbuthnot when the bomb went off.

PC Gordon's wife Sheila, aged 34, who is due to give birth to the couple's second child in February, has kept a bedside vigil at the hospital since Saturday's bombing. He joined the Metropolitan Police eight years ago and served with the Special Patrol Group before becoming a dog handler last year.

Insp Dodd, who is in the intensive care unit at the Central Middlesex Hospital, which specializes in treating head injuries, was walking behind the police car when the bomb went off. He is married with three children. He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1968 and became an inspector at Chelsea police station in 1981.

Two of the three patients still detained at St Stephen's Hospital in Fulham, west London, paid tribute to the care they have received at the hospital, where dozens of off-duty staff came in on Saturday without being asked.

Mr Pradip Khaitan, aged 42, a solicitor from Calcutta on a week's business trip with his brother, and Mr Ken Ayres, aged 53, a chauffeur who was driving them in London, spoke of their ordeal.

The third victim still being treated at St Stephen's, Mrs Diane Michael, was said to be in a stable condition yesterday.

● A man charged with making a hoax bomb call two days after the Harrods explosion, was remanded in custody by Old Street Magistrates' Court in London yesterday. Ian Samuda, aged 21, is accused of claiming that there was a bomb in Bond Street, Mayfair.

Mr Samuda, of Mandeville Street, Hackney, east London, elected to be tried by jury and was remanded until December 29.

Sinn Fein to fight any political ban

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Leaders of Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, would challenge any future ban on them by demonstrations and legal challenges.

If those failed the party would reconstitute under another name as it does not want to be driven underground. But its leaders are acutely aware of the propaganda value of any ban.

If the Government of the Irish Republic outlawed the party it would do so under the Offences Against the State Act, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years for belonging to a proscribed organization. Its 27 councillors would face arrest and its offices and *Republican News* would be closed.

The party dates from 1970 when the republican movement split over whether to drop its policy of not recognizing parliaments in Belfast and Dublin. Thirteen years later, it has adopted the radical left-wing policies favoured then by Official Sinn Fein now known as the Workers' Party.

Provisional Sinn Fein's membership is estimated at 2,000 in each part of Ireland. Support is strongest in urban areas of Northern Ireland and along the Republic's western seaboard.

In the republic the party has refused to register as a party to avoid tacitly recognizing a partitionist state – although in the 1979 local government elections it put up 106 candidates in the republic.

During the hunger strike of 1981 two prisoners won Dail seats in Cavan Monaghan and Louth.

Since 1981 begun the party has taken seats won in local council elections.

Its president Mr Gerry Adams, was elected Westminster MP for West Belfast, but has not taken his seat. The party has five abstaining members elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

However it will contest next year's EEC election and if successful would take any seats won. In the June general election the party secured more than 100,000 votes – 43 per cent of the nationalist vote.

The party is aiming to supplant the Social Democratic and Labour Party as the voice of northern nationalism.

In the republic it believes that the deprivation and disillusion among young people is fertile ground for their political development.

In Northern Ireland the party has successfuly used "community politics", operated through advice centres manned mostly by unemployed young people.

Candidates must support the armed struggle and canvas normally. Its general election manifesto demanded British withdrawal to by followed by radical left-wing policies that are the hallmark of the northern "young Turks" who dominate the party.

The policy for a federal Ireland was rejected in 1981 in favour of a unitary state, despite opposition from the leadership in the republic.

The party is governed by a 28-strong executive elected annually by secret ballot.

● Politicians and civil servants in Northern Ireland believe that any proscription of Provisional Sinn Fein could be a fatal mistake because it would be used for international propaganda and probably aid recruitment.

Miners to continue work ban

Miners' leaders voted yesterday to withdraw from industry's top-level consultative machinery and to continue their national overtime ban over pay and pit closures into the new year.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that the ban, now into its eighth week, had cost 2.4 million tonnes in lost production.

The situation is likely to worsen next month

Any pay negotiations on the 5.2 per cent offer seem further away than ever after the union executive's decision to leave the five-year-old Joint Policy Advisory Committee, the only forum in which the coal board believes an acceptable approach to the Goverment could be fashioned.

The three mining unions and the board are due to meet next month to draw up an ambitious extension of the industry's tripartite Plan for Coal, and those talks are likely to go ahead. But the NUM says that it will not join any approach to the Secretary of State for Energy, unless it is on a policy of "no pit closures and an end to manpower reductions".

The coal board says that unless normal overtime is permitted over the 10-day Christmas holiday, up to 40 collieries could be at risk from flooding or spontaneous combustion. But Mr Scargill said, "We shall be doing no more than what has been done already – that is seeking sensible talks."

GPs attack rules for deputies

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

About 80 per cent of the 12,000 family doctors who use deputizing services to cover night and weekend calls would be barred from doing so under new rules proposed by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

According to these, doctors in partnerships of three or more would be expected to cover each other's night calls without resource to deputizing services.

Doctors working alone or in partnerships of two would normally be restricted to using the services three nights a week and alternative weekends.

Mr Michael Lowe, secretary to the BMA's advisory committee on deputizing services, said that as a result deputizing services would become uneconomic and close, with general practice in inner-city areas collapsing.

Many older family doctors in inner-city areas would not be able to cope with taking late night calls four nights a week. He said: "They would just get out and I think you would have a job recruiting new doctors to come in."

● Britain's opticians yesterday launched a campaign to oppose the Government's Bill ending their monopoly to dispense spectacles. The Federation of Optical Corporate Bodies said that, for all except the simplest prescriptions, prices would rise, not fall, as the Government maintains.

Inquiry by MPs into fuel prices

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet's decision to ask the electricity industry to raise prices to domestic consumers by 2 per cent in April is to be investigated by the all-party Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The decision of the newly formed committee to hold an inquiry into fuel prices is the latest twist in the dispute involving the Treasury on one side and the Electricity Council and the Department of Energy on the other.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has been pressing for a 3 per cent increase on domestic and industrial users, which Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy and the Electricity Council resisted.

In what has been seen as a compromise, the Cabinet agreed to ask for a 2 per cent increase on domestic tariffs, which it has no power to implement. Although there are signs that this may be acceptable to the council, some electricity industry leaders are still unhappy and may be in the mood to rebel.

The council is due to consider the price increase request at its meeting on January 19 but the select committee inquiry, which is due to begin immediately after Christmas and which will take evidence from the Treasury, the energy department and the council, may encourage it not to take a final decision in the hope that it will gain support from MPs.

Policeman accused of accosting

A police chief allegedly asked a plain-clothes policewoman for sex in Nottingham's red light district, magistrates were told yesterday. Detective Chief Inspector Robert Warner, of the Lincolnshire Constabulary's fraud and drugs squad, alleged to have asked Police Woman Janet Greenwood, of the Nottinghamshire force, "How much is it?".

The police woman, aged 30, told Nottingham magistrates that she replied: "What for?" He then said: "Straight sex."

She produced her warrant card from her jeans pocket and signalled to two other plain-clothes officers in the vicinity.

Chief Inspector Warner, aged 49, was before the court to answer a police summons asking that he be bound over to be of good behaviour under the Justice of the Peace Act of 1361. He denied the complaint.

Mr David Blundell, for the prosecution said that the chief inspector had committed no offence. The 1361 Act was used in cases of people who were misbehaving to the annoyance of others, such as peeping toms.

The Act was one of the oldest on the statute books. But Mr Blundell said it had stood the test of time and many people had been bound over under it.

He added: "The prosecution says he behaved in exactly the same way as dozens of other people who have been bound over. What is good for the goose is good for the gander and the fact that he is a police officer makes no difference".

The hearing continues today.



PM's visitor: Jodie Fitts aged six, of Stockport, who gave some of her bone marrow in an attempt to save the life her baby brother, Aaron, visiting Mrs Thatcher at the Commons yesterday. Her mother, Mrs Maxine Fitts, took her to see Mrs Thatcher at Westminster immediately after Prime Minister's Question Time.

DPP to rule on Mitchell poll cash allegations

Allegations that Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, failed to declare all his general election expenses are to be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions, it was said in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Mitchell had gone to court to ask to be excused from any penalty for exceeding his expenses return by an admitted £261 – a sum which also took him over the allowed expenses limit.

But the move was opposed by Mr Paul Genney, the unsuccessful SDP candidate, and Mr Mitchell agreed to withdraw the bulk of his application so that the allegation against him could be dealt with, along with others, by the DPP.

Mr Genney was Mr Mitchell's election agent before he moved to the SDP

Home players dominate Brighton chess

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Brighton

With a strong entry comprising three grandmaster and seven international masters, the Brighton Computer Games Ltd. international tournament looks like ending in a resounding success for the England players who at the end of round eight, occupied all the leading places.

With one round to go, the grandmaster John Nunn leads with 6½ points followed by international masters, Nigel Short six, William Watson 5, and Julian Hadgson 4½.

Then came the grandmaster Westerinen (Finland) and the international master Murei (Israel) on 4, the grandmaster Mednis (USA) and the international masters Plaskett (England) 3½, Ivanov (Canada) 3 and Burger (USA) 0.

The results in round eight on Monday were: Plaskett ½, Hodgson ½; Mednis 1, Murei 0, Burger 0, Watson 1, Short 1, Ivanov 0, Westerinen ½, Nunn ½.

In the ninth and last round yesterday, Short has black against Watson, he needs to win in order to gain the grandmaster norm and with it the title.

Father whose beating blinded baby is jailed

A father who battered his crying baby son so badly that it is now permanently blind was jailed for 30 months by St Albans Crown Court yesterday.

The savage attack took place when the baby's screams disturbed the father who was trying to watch the television series *Night Rider*. The child's brain was bruised.

Jailing the father, aged 30, Judge J. Blofield, QC, said: "You repeatedly struck that three-month-old baby across the face with such horrifying violence that it has caused him lasting injuries that will be with him until the day he dies.

£7.6m rescue for opera and RSC

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House and several regional opera companies are to be saved from their financial crises by a £7.6m rescue operation announced by Lord Gowrie, the Minister for the Arts, yesterday.

Lord Gowrie said that £2.8m would go to the Royal Opera House and the RSC on the recommendation of the Priestley Report, which concluded that the two companies were underfunded. A further £1.3m would be given to English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera and Opera North.

An additional £3.5m will be sought to wipe out all the accumulated deficits of the companies.

The announcement was part of Lord Gowrie's disclosure of the arts budget for 1984/85, which totals £100m compared with £92m this year. But £4.1m of the total will be earmarked for the use of the RSC and the opera companies, giving the Arts Council a real increase of 4.2 per cent in its grant raising it to £95.9m, compared with the 20 per cent it had requested.

The apportioning of the grant created resentment among regional theatres yesterday and received a lukewarm reception from the Arts Council.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, the council's chairman, welcomed the special grant for the RSC and opera companies but added: "I am, however, very concerned that the maintained grant for the rest of our arts needs will leave many difficult problems for other companies, though I recognize that the Government is tackling two of the big problems thoroughly.

"The case for more funding for other companies is, of course, just as strong as the case for more funding for the two companies on which Mr Priestly reported. In future years, attention must be focused on raising the level of arts opportunity and provision outside London to something closer to the London level."

Lord Gowrie denied that the decision unfairly favoured London activities and the opera companies, and said that the writing-off of the debts would give the Arts Council more money to spend on other activities. Opera was an activity of increasing popularity throughout the country, he said.

The minister's announcement, made in a written House of Lords reply, was described as "an insult to regional theatre and the Arts Council" by Mr Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal, Stratford.

"The Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company are palpably over-funded in comparison to regional theatre because there is disgraceful waste at both."

Mr Hedley criticized the salary of nearly £50,000 paid to the RSC's joint director, Mr Trevor Nunn, who is at present on unpaid sabbatical.

"My actors get £95 to £125 a week and I get nearly £200 a week. That's a good salary for me but I'm running an organization with more than £500,000 turnover."

Mr William Weston, administrator of the Leeds Playhouse, said: "This clearly isn't a substantial improvement in arts funding and it will inevitably lead to further gradual erosion in the regions.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 25; Belgium B frs 60; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 150; Cyprus 560 mils; Denmark Dkr 7.00; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.50; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 2000; Luxembourg Lf 45; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 10.00; Norway Kr 7.00; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 120; Singapore $4.50; Spain Pes 150; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.50; Yugoslavia Din 100

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One in four men admits driving above the drink limit after parties

By Kenneth Gosling

A pre-Christmas survey of almost 1,000 drivers has shown that nearly a quarter of the men questioned would drive home from a party knowing they were over the alcohol limit. And seven in 10 admit having driven after drinking more than two pints of beer.

This would be over the limit for most, but three out of five believe their driving would not be affected, according to a Gallup poll carried out for the *Legal and General insurance* company.

One in five male drivers admitted having driven after drinking at least six pints.

Mr Brian Palmer, a Legal and General director, said the figures told only part of the story. "If this is what people willingly own up to, we can only shudder at what the full picture might be.

"When a jumbo jet crashes the whole world reads about it. Each year the number of people killed or injured in drink-driving accidents in Britain is equivalent to 77 jumbo jet disasters", Mr Palmer said.

One in 10 of all road accidents involves a drunk driver and the Government is spending £860,000 on a Christmas campaign.

Campaigns are ignored by more than 40 per cent of drivers, according to the survey. And even where a partner or a friend has been chosen to drive home from a party, one in seven is likely to be near or over the limit.

Drivers also ignore the threat to their finances and their jobs if they have their licences suspended for at least a year. One estimate yesterday was that a driver in this position could have to pay between £10,000 and £12,000 to replace his normally car-borne activities, including his job.

Drivers also face a doubling of their premiums and a cut in cover from comprehensive to third party, especially if they have offended more than once.

Some companies protect valued members of staff by taking out cover with the St Christopher Motorists' Security Association, which gives a benefit of £3,000 for a three-star plan on a premium of £64 a year and £8,500 for a five-star policy which costs £175.

"We don't pick up the heavy drinkers", Mr Martin O'Neill, the company's managing director said. "We will not pay out if a motorist is over double the legal maximum. We don't want to be seen as a drunkards' charter.

"We normally acquire people in the professions who know they are at risk if they have one or two drinks. And it's a fallacy that it is just at this point in the year. During the summer is when people are more relaxed and go out for a pint or two".

A copy of the Gallup poll, conducted nationally between December 7 and 12 among a representative sample, almost equally divided between the sexes, of 962 adults, has been sent to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport.

Women were shown to be slightly more nervous when driving at public house closing times and a little more inclined than men to view the present penalties as not strict enough.

No women admitted having driven after drinking six or more pints of beer. But two per cent had, they said, taken between five and five-and-a-half pints.

● In its annual report the London Council on Alcoholism says it had more than 800 calls last year, 40 per cent from problem drinkers themselves. The total figure was 10 per cent up on last year, which had shown a rise of 20 per cent on the year before.

Among referrals the proportion of women was higher than that of men, although new clients referred by someone else showed a much higher proportion of men.

The age range is expanding, the report says, to include those under 20 and over 60.

PC tells sex bias inquiry of warning

A police officer was given a warning that he would "lose out" if he continued to support a woman colleague in a sexual discrimination claim against the Metropolitan Police, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

Police Constable Trevor Attfield, aged 31, said that he was later transferred from the traffic division at Hampton, west London, to foot patrol in Notting Hill.

Mr Attfield, who is married and lives in Ashford, Surrey, was giving evidence at a hearing in which PC Wendy de Launay caimd sexual discrimination after being banned from making regular police patrols with him. She also alleges that she was victimized and transferred without consultation to another unit.

Mr Attfield claimed in his evidence: "I have been told I would lose out by supporting Miss de Launay."

Mr David Ellis, representing the Metropolitan Police, disputed the allegation but Mr Attfield said: "It is something I have remembered to this day."

The tribunal, now in its second day, has been told that Miss de Launay and Mr Attfield were traffic patrol partners at the Hampton police garage. They were split up after reports that a relationship had developed between them.

Miss de Launay, who is 25, claims that as a result she could not get the practice and instruction she required from a more senior officer in the handling of police patrol cars.

Both Miss de Launay and Mr Attfield deny suggestions that they were emotionally involved with each other.

Chief Inspector Brian Corbett, who was in charge at Hampton garage, said a sergeant told him that Miss de Launay and Mr Attfield were being seen together off duty. Rumours about their relationship were, he said, "affecting morale" at the garage and there was concern it could have repercussions on Mr Attfield's home life.

"We are not in the business of spying on officers in their private lives", Mr Corbett said.

The hearing continues today.

PC Trevor Attfield and his former car patrol partner WPC Wendy de Launay in London yesterday.



Divorced wives of clergy 'ostracized'

By David Cross

Many divorced wives of clergy still feel shabbily treated by the Church of England, in spite of official concern about their plight, according to a report published today.

The report, *Divorced Clergy Wives – One Year On*, has been written by Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and Mr Neil McIlwraith as a sequel to one published a year ago, *Walking by on the Other Side?*

The results of the first report, which investigated 24 cases, showed that, with few exceptions, the church's embarrassment over the break-up of clerical marriages led to many wives feeling totally rejected by the authorities. Typical of the reactions was one woman who wrote: "It's a much bigger issue than they [the church] will admit. It embarrasses them and they try to sweep it under the carpet".

After the first report the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said that he was concerned about the problem's scale and anxious for church authorities to respond constructively.

A second survey was commissioned by Mr Field to provide additional data for a working group set up by the House of Bishops. The main point was to discover whether the church's attitude in each diocese reflected the change and the goodwill expressed by senior officials.

But, the report says, many former clergy wives, who believe the church treated them badly in the past, said that there had been no change since the first survey.

Asked whether any contact had been made by the church during the past year to inquire about their circumstances, 20 of the 49 wives who agreed to be interviewed said "Yes". Fourteen said that no such an inquiry had ever been made.

Time since a divorcee was asked by a church official about her welfare.	
Less than 1 year	20
Between 1 and 2 years	1
Between 2 and 5 years	6
Over 5 years	1
Uncertain/unclear	7
Never	14
Total	49

Indeed, when the church had made contact, it had not always been to inquire about former wives and children. One respondent wrote that she had never been asked "except to check-up if I felt my ex-husband was suitable for a new job".

Explaining the isolation felt by many former wives, one wrote: "Since my divorce I have certainly been dropped by the establishment and people with whom one was constantly in contact have never initiated contact.

The report says that all too many wives reported that unless they went knocking very hard on certain doors, the church was not interested.

The survey also found that some former wives were unaware of the help which church charities like the Corporation of the Sons of Clergy and the Freinds of the Clergy Corporation might be able to offer them. Of 23 divorcees who had been in contact with charities, 19 had had their request completely or almost completely met

Among the recommendations put forward in the report for easing the plight of former wives is a suggestion that the Church should consider the setting up of a full-time post with special responsibility for the problem

In addition, the church should lay down central guidelines for help on offer.

Hope denies taking fee for charity golf

Bob Hope, the comedian, has denied taking fees to appear the charity golf tournament which bears his name.

Organizers of the tournament who have gone into liquidation had said Mr Hope was paid £88,000 in fees and £53,000 in expenses for the Bob Hope British Golf Classic.

Yesterday, however, Mr Hope said in a BBC radio interview: "I was never paid any money. The money that I was paid for, of course, went for the production and the whole thing. The, money is for the production of the show, and the writers, and the expense – that's all."

"When you're bringing stars over and taking care of them and their fares, it's a hell of a lot of expense there."

Horse stunt fall removed from new Bond film

The RSPCA has persuaded Warner Brothers, the makers of the new James Bond film *Never Say Never Again*, to cut one of the most dramatic scenes, showing a horse plunging 40 feet into the sea and hitting the water on its back.

The RSPCA worked closely with the Board of British Film Censors to have the scene cut for British showing.

Its chief veterinary officer, Mr David Wilkins, said yesterday: "I was shocked when I saw uncut footage of the stunt. The horse was put in a wooden box on top of a scaffolding with a man and women stunt team. The box was tilted, and all three fell out,

"Warner Brothers say it was examined by a vet, who diagnosed no physical injury.



Pilgrim's progress: Mgr James Horan, a master of politics. (Photograph: Terry Fincher).

Knock airport

A priest's dream or folly

By Richard Ford.

The view from the 6,000ft runway of Ireland's proposed fourth international airport, perched 650ft above the sea on a boggy plateau, is awe-inspiring. When it is not shrouded in mist rising from the surrounding bog there are spectacular views of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain on whose 2,510ft summit St Patrick allegedly spent the 40 days of Lent in the year 441.

To the south-east is the Marian Shrine at Knock, co Mayo, where in 1879 it is claimed there was an apparition of the Virgin Mary.

But the second miracle of Knock will need more than divine intervention if it is ever to be completed to help pilgrims on their faithful progress to the shrine.

Viewed from Dublin the airport is "Knock nonsense". Dr Garret FitzGerald's coalition government of Fine Gael and Labour will not spend the further £4m (Irish) needed to provide runway lighting, security, air traffic control, and a terminal building for the grandly-titled Connacht Regional Airport.

The republic's newest airport is destined to remain as no more than an asphalt runway unless the Connacht Regional Airport Development Company, headed by Mgr James Horan, the astute parish priest of Knock, can persuade private investors to pour money into a project that has swallowed £19m of government cash.

That looks unlikely as even if it were completed Knock is thought by Aer Reanta, which runs the republic's three other international airports, to be an uneconomic proposition.

Instead the project, hailed as Mgr Horan's finest achievement, will be foreever portrayed as a typical Irish yarn and a reminder of recent political instability where governments were in and out of office at the speed of a revolving door.

Mgr Horan, whose private company put up only £1100 for the project has proved himself a master at politics winning a promise from Mr Charles Haughey, when he was Prime Minister, to support the plan. Then with every vote and seat counting he persuaded successive governments to continue with the project that was being dismissed privately as "sheer lunacy".

But with political stability, Dr FitzGerald has decided no more money should be spent. However, with another poll the wily priest may still get his money from public funds to complete the airport.

As one of the company's directors, Dr Joseph Cunnane, the Archbishop of Tuam, said: "It could be a big political embarrassment for Fine Gael as they are the party that stopped this development. This is Fianna Fail territory and Fine Gael has a seat which election."

Mgr Horan cleverly played the "deprived West" card, and was delighted at all the publicity surrounding the airport because it was attracting more of the faithful to the Marian Shrine. And the singer Christy Moore has immortalized it with the ballad "The Miracle Airport Knock".

However, the Government's decision against the airport meant disappointment for the cleric who had hoped that by 1985 jumbo jets would be landing pilgrims on their way to Knock. He dreamed of a traditional Irish airport with peat fires in the terminal lounges. His plan allowed for only nine full-time staff assisted by part-time workers supplementing their meagre farm incomes.



Instead of tow trucks to pull the aircraft from the apron to the runway, he had the original concept of letting farmers use their tractors to do the job and hoped that the spin-off would provide industry for the area and make the airport a tourist attraction in its own rhight because of its beautiful position.

Politicians in the republic will be relieved that Mgr Horan has no further grandoise ideas which might involve public money. He is now to concentrate on something less costly: preparing his own soul before death.

Six jailed for huge bullion tax fraud

A former bank robber, Ronald Dark, and Old Harrovian Spencer Eade, had one thing in common: a taste for wealth. It led them to join a gang of gold swindlers who made a profit of at least £6m from a value-added tax fraud.

At the Central Criminal Court yesterday they and four others were jailed and fined. Customs officers believe that other members of the gang are living abroad "in style".

Judge Sutcliffe had postponed sentencing the group for two weeks so that the Customs and Excise could investigate where the proceeds of the fraud were.

A substantial amount is now understood to have been traced, although nearly £2m was mysteriously withdrawn from the Crédit Suisse bank in Switzerland.

Eade, a former Ministry of Defence information officer and an arms exporter, used his company to import gold ingots from Switzerland, the court was told.

With his legitimate firm, Scan Defence International, he could defer paying VAT on the gold for three months. It was that which allowed the swindle to operate.

In three months the group traded in £40m worth of bullion. It was sold to dealers who were charged 15 per cent VAT which was then pocketed by the group

Eade, described as an inteligent ring leader by Judge Sutcliffe, was jailed for a total of three and a half years and fined £90,000 with nine months to pay. Eade, of Delfryn, Portslade, East Sussex, had denied fraud.

Dark, of Preston Road, Wembley, north-west London, who was released from prison in 1979, admitted his part as a "front man" for the group. He was jailed for 12 months and fined £3,000 with six months to pay.

Len Berry, aged 47, a company director, of the Houseboat, Taggs Island, Hampton, south-west London, his wife Freda, aged 44; Christopher Michel, aged 43, a public relations consultant, of Greenstead House, Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex; and Terence Ward, aged 42, a salesman, of Crawford Street, central London, had all denied their part in the fraud.

Berry, also described as a ringleader, was jailed for five and a half years and fined £120,000. His wife, who acted as a bookeeper in the fraud, was jailed for two years with one year suspended.

Michel was jailed for four years and fined £100,000 and Ward was jailed for 18 months. Criminal bankruptcy orders were made against all defendants except Dark and Ward.

£250,000 damages for mother

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A couple's marriage was ruined after a Mrs Lynn Webb suffered "catastrophic" brain damage during a 10-minute sterilization operation.

Mr Colin Webb, aged 35, a civil servant, agonized for 10 months before divorcing the mother of his four sons. Mrs Webb, a former bank clerk, was awarded damages of £250,000 and costs by the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

Mr Webb siad afterwards: "Although I have divorced her, I have not divorced myself from my responsibilities".

Mr Webb, of Lime Road, Haslingden, Lancashire intends to buy a specially-adapted bungalow near his home where his former wife will live with a full-time nurse to enable her to see more of their children Geoffrey, aged 12, Peter, aged 10, Ben, aged 9 and Anthony, aged 7.

In making the award, Mr Justice Beldam said that Mrs Webb, now 30, and her husband had been advised that she should be steralized.

But during the operation in August, 1977, at Fairfield General Hospital, Bury, her heart stopped and she was deprived of oxygen.

The judge said that brain damage was caused by an inexperienced anaethetist's failure to monitor her blood pressure.

"He had not, in my judgment, been adequately told of the dangers associated with the anaesthetic agent and in particular of the risk of low blood pressure." But he said he believed that Dr Anil Seth, the doctor concerned, become a distinguished member of his profession.

Bury Area Health Authority had contested liability.

Protest over driver's 9-month sentence

A driver who has twice been banned for drinking and driving was jailed for nine months yesterday for causing the death of a boy aged 14 by reckless driving.

Gordon Stratton, aged 24, who had been drinking before he knocked down the boy, Timothy Proctor, was fined and banned in 1979 for driving with excess alcohol. He was fined and banned agian last September for a similar offence, committed when he was on bail awaiting trial for the charge concerning Timothy Proctor of Brancote Avenue, Mitcham.

After the hearing, at the Central Criminal Court, the boy's father, Mr Bernard Proctor, described the nine-month sentence as ludicrous and a disgusting insult.

Mr Proctor said he would see his MP and write to the Home Secretary about the case. "This smacks of cut-price justice because a charge of manslaughter was dropped", he said.

In court, Sir James Miskin, the Recorder of London, was told that Stratton, raeed his car through traffic lights at Mitcham, south London, as they were changing to red and struck the boy

Mr Bruce Houlder, for the prosecution, said that Stratton, pursued by a tanker driver who had seen the incident, drove on at high speed, swerving violently from side to side in order to throw off the boy.

The boy was hurled from the car and struck his head on the pavement. A pathologist said that he believed this was the immediate cause of his death,

Stratton, of Strawberry Lane, Carshalton, Surrey, pleaded guilty to causing death by reckless driving. Mr Houlder said that the Crown was prepared to accept Stratton's plea of not guilty to manslaughter because he had panicked.

Sir James said that he was "satisfied" that Stratton was not over the legal alcohol limit when he hit the boy, but told Stratton: "Drink helped you to drive at a reckless speed."

PARLIAMENT December 20 1983

Minister declines to intervene in Scott Lithgow

SHIPBUILDING

The record of the British Shipbuilding yard of Scott Lithgow on keeping to budget and to time was abysmal, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) had asked: Is she aware of the impending industrial disaster and human tragedy in the West of Scotland with the possible closure of the Scott Lithgow yard? Would she have negotiations to see whether that contract can be renegotiated, otherwise there will be a tremendous disaster for the West of Scotland, and in the light of the money spent on nuclear weapons it would be a drop in the ocean to save those jobs?

Mrs Thatcher: Competition for both ships and for oil rigs is very great and the only conditions to have employment is by keeping customers. That means building ships and oil rigs to budget and on time and I very much regret the record of that particular yard in that respect is abysmal.

There are two other things in that yard, one is a ship for the MOD and the other is an oil rig and British Shipbuilders will be considering how best to continue to build these in view of the difficulties they face in any negotiations they may be able to have.

Later, Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said in a statement: In December 1981 Scott Lithgow contracted with Britoil to produce a semi-submersible drilling rig. The contract value was £88.6m and the contractual delivery date was April 1984. Construction began in February 1982.

By March 1983, British Shipbuilders had provided for losses of £43.8m on the rig. The then chairman, Sir Robert Atkinson, warned that performance and losses at Scott Lithgow were unacceptable.

On October 31 1983, Britoil were sufficiently concerned about progress on the contract to issue through its agents a notice requiring Scott Lithgow to demonstrate within 30 days that the rig could be completed by February 1985.

Scott Lithgow responded to Britoil by arguing that despite the undoubted delays on the contract hitherto completion would be possible within the terms of the contract.

However, on 19 December a notice of cancellation was served on behalf of Britoil on the basis that Scott Lithgow had not demonstrated that the rig could be delivered by February 1985.

BS have responded to the cancellation notice by disputing its validity and I understand that they have now instituted legal proceedings.

While BS and Britoil are considering the next step in this negotiation, all work on the rig will be stopped. BS are instructing suppliers to suspend work on contracts relating to the rig. Up to 2,000 of the workforce are involved in construction of the rig.

The remainder of the workforce – approximately 2,250 men – are employed on two other contracts: one for BP and one for the Ministry of Defence. It is BS's intention that these contracts will continue.

Unemployment in this area is already high and a further increase of the scale implied by the cancellation of this order would be a matter of deep concern to the Government. The Secretary of State for Scotland has this morning met the Scottish TUC and told them that he would of course seek to do all he can to alleviate the very real distress that would be caused in the local community.

However, the offshore industry is highly competitive and customers insist upon contractors – including management and workforce – delivering on quality, price and time. Regrettably Scott Lithgow so far appears to have been unable to satisfy Britoil that it can fulfil its obligations on this contract.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said this was not the time for the Secretary of State for Scotland to be telling the Scottish TUC that he would alleviate the distress caused by the closure.

It is time (he said) for the minister and the Government to call in the parties and insist on a solution. Why has he not done so already? He has known for months that these losses have been building up.

If this shipyard were to close, 4,250 jobs would be directly at risk, not 2,250. Another 4,000 were directly engaged in ancillary work and contracting, so they were talking about a total of something over 8,000.

Scott Lithgow was the lead yard designated by British Shipbuilders for offshore construction and was building probably the most advanced semi-submersible rig that we had yet marketed, to operate in deep Atlantic waters; a far more sophisticated rig than had so far had to operate even in the deep waters of the North Sea.

It is absurd (he continued) that the future of this yard and of this industry should be left to litigation by one wholly-owned public corporation against another 48 per cent-owned public corporation while the chairman of BS himself has departed for a three week holiday abroad.



McCurley: Cannot pull plug



Millan: Jobs can be saved

The minister should accept his own responsibility. He cannot simply sit on his hands while a major new high technology industry in Scotland is allowed to collapse. We will not allow him to.

Mr Lamont said the Government had kept in close touch with the situation in the contract. This was a serious matter but it was a commercial dispute between BS and Britoil. Both sides had taken decisions which they judged to be in their best commercial interest.

If the Government were to intervene (he continued) either to urge Britoil to withdraw its notice or BS to renegotiate the contract, which they do not wish to do, the commercial and financial position of one party or the other would be severely prejudiced and the ground would be cut from under the feet of both managements. Government intervention would be only counter productive. (Labour interruptions.)

The government had to consider not just the yard but the taxpayers who had funded huge losses by Scott Lithgow, almost £44m on this contract. Some £66m out of the losses of £117m that BS announced last year came from Scott Lithgow.

Did Mr Shore suggest that the Government put more money into Scott Lithgow?

Mr Shore asked Mr Lamont if he was saying that this was entirely a commercial matter for the two parties and that either now or at the end of the legal procedure he did not accept that he had a separate role to look after the national interest in so far as it was involved in the future of this industry?

Mr Lamont replied that of course there was a national interest but this interest was not to pour good money after bad. (Labour interruptions.)

Taxpayers must be considered. BS did not wish to be forced to renegotiate the contract. If this was what Mr Shore suggested, he was saying that the Government should encourage them to take risks, to incur costs they did not wish to undertake. That could damage not only BS finances but other contracts they were working on.

Mrs Anna McCurley (Renfrew, West and Inverclyde, C): Will the minister carry out an urgent review of the procedures adopted at Scott Lithgow with a view to salvaging some of the undoubted expertise that exists at this yard?

Surely the Government cannot pull the plug out of an industry that has served the west of Scotland for more than 300 years without such a review.

Mr Lamont: This is notice about the cancellation of a contract. It is not the closure of the yard. BS have said they intend to continue work both on the MOD contract and the BP contract.

It is not the Government who have pulled the plug out of Scott Lithgow. It is the inefficiency, poor performance and massive losses. They have gone on for many years and the men at Scott Lithgow have been warned about that

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party: He is pushing the laisser faire philosophy of this Government to preposterous lenghts.

Mr Lamont: I do not see how it could be remotely described as laisser faire to have funded losses of £140 by this yard in addition to giving production subsidies of £17m to Scott Lithgow through the intervention fund.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab): This contract can be saved. These jobs can be saved. It will be cheaper for the public purse at the end of the day if the contract is renegotiated. If the Government does not intervene in this they will not be forgiven in Scotland.

Mr Lamont: He says it would be cheaper for the public purse if the contract were renegotiated. I do not see how he can be so certain as to what further losses would be incurred if the contract is proceeded with.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): However much Mr Lamont may talk about commercial consideration and competitiveness, this stand off approach which he has taken today to the death of an industry and two towns is something which would not be allowed to happen in any competitor industry country in the world.

Mr Lamont: It will not be the death of an industry. There are other yards which are involved in this industry.

I cannot believe in many countries the government would have gone on funding losses year after year at this Government has done with Scott Lithgow.

Noraid money going to those who pursue violence

TERRORISM

Mrs Thatcher coupled a condemnation of financial support for Noraid, the fund-raising organization for the IRA in the United States, with agreement that most American and Irish people condemned violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions in the Commons asking her to endorse the line taken by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, about Noraid, and another calling on her to dampen hysteria about Irish-American support for violence in Northern Ireland.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C) said: The tragic death on Saturday of a United States citizen and the injuring of others might bring home that money given to Noraid does not go to help widows and orphans, but to create them.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. We condemn, as strongly as the President, the money going to Noraid. It is given to those who reject democracy and pursue the ends of violence, death and destruction of innocent people. It is possible that it resulted on this occasion in the death of one American citizen and the injury of others.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Endorsing the views of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland given on American television yesterday, the House will want to commend the helpful and forthright response of Dr Garret Fitzgerald and the positive statements by the American Ambassador on Saturday's atrocity.

What consideration has been given to increasing formal joint efforts between governments to block off the flow of munitions and money to terrorists, wherever such resources come from?

Mrs Thatcher: I am grateful to Mr Kinnock. Dr Fitzgerald was sympathetic and sent a very sympathetic message. I was able to congratulate him on the tremendous efforts in the Republic to secure the release of Mr Tidey. That resulted in the death of two of their security guards.

Cooperation is close between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic in trying to block off munitions, or, if they get over, in trying to find them.

The destruction and damage caused in the Republic by the activities of the IRA is very damaging indeed to the Republic. We therefore both cooperate in these matters to the maximum extent. I am also grateful for what the American Ambassador said when he came to see me last evening.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP): Will the Prime Minister dampen the hysteria in this country about Irish-American support for violence in Northen Ireland? The vast majority of Irish-Americans – and there are 44 million of them – do not support violence, and that opposition is forcibly, strongly and constructively expressed by their leaders like Speaker O'Neill, Senator Kennedy and Mr Moynihan.

Mrs Thatcher: The overwhelming majority of the American people and the Irish and those in prominent positions condemn violence as a means of pursuing political ends.

Violence is a negation of democracy. We pursue democracy.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill, Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, and Animal Health and Welfare Bill, second reading.

Child sex case judge criticized by MPs

PM's QUESTIONS

Legislation is to be introduced to allow the Court of Appeal to consider sentences alleged to be too lenient, not with a view to changing those sentences, but so that there might be a guide on future sentences, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when questioned in the Commons about the case in which a man was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on Monday for an offence against a seven-year-old girl.

Mrs Thatcher said that she could not emphasize too strongly the seriousness with which the Government regarded all sexual offences against children.

The matter was raised by **Mrs Edwina Currie** (South Derbyshire, C) who asked: Will Mrs Thatcher study the remarks of Judge Brian Gibbens in the High Court on Friday and yesterday in which he expressed sympathy with a man who had unlawful intercourse with a seven-year-old girl and described it as an accident.

Will she agree with me, as the mother of a seven-year-old girl, that those remarks were a disgrace?

Mrs Thatcher: I have great sympathy with Mrs Currie. The Government regards with very great seriousness indeed all sexual offences against children. I cannot emphasize that too strongly.

The Lord Chancellor has called for a transcript, so that he may first find the facts, which I believe is the proper course.

Mr Peter Lilley (St Albans, C): As 490 people were convicted last year of sexual assaults on children, there is growing public concern at the leniency of sentences on such attackers, such as the one passed yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher: Within the statutory limits on sentencing laid down, the law allows for very severe sentences. The precise sentences are a matter for the judge, but the Government intends to introduce legislation to submit sentences which are alleged to be too lenient to the Court of Appeal. Although the court could not overrule that sentence, what it said might be a guide on future sentences.

Tough targets set for some Welsh councils: low rate rises forecast

WALES

Expenditure targets set for Welsh local authorities for 1984-85 are tough for some but reasonable for all, **Mr Nicholas Edwards**, Secretary of State for Wales, said in a statement to the Commons on the rate support grant for the forthcoming financial year. Every authority, he said, had a cash increase in its current expenditure.

Mr Edwards said: I have today announced to the Welsh Consultative Council on Local Government Finance the details of the 1984-85 rate support grant settlement.

The main features of the 1984-85 settlement confirm the intentions I announced in November. They must be seen in the context of the Government's continuing commitment of secure reductions in public expenditure. The total of relevant expenditure provision accepted for grants is £1,440m. This comprises £1,253m for current expenditure and £187m for non-current items. Aggregate exchequer grant will be £996m, consisting of £138.8m for specific grants, £31m for transport supplementary grant, £1.9m for national parks supplementary grant and £824.3m for the rate support grants. Domestic rate relief is unchanged at 18½p in the pound which costs £25.3m, leaving £799m for distribution as block grant.

The settlement is a fair one. Current expenditure provision, after allowing for the 1½ per cent reduction in authorities' national insurance surcharge from next April and the way in which housing benefit administration costs are now counted for rate support grant purposes, is £57m or 4.8 per cent more than the provision underlying the 1983-84 settlement.

Aggregate exchequer grant at £996m is £21m or 2.2 per cent more than the aggregate exchequer grant provision in the main rate support grant settlement for the current year. Even more important for rating purposes it is £36m or 3.8 per cent higher than the amount authorities have included in their budgets for the present year.

As in the present year and preceding one I have set individual authority expenditure targets. Experience has shown that these are helpful to authorities in providing a degree of certainty of grant entitlement for spending at target and clearly exert a significant influence on expenditure decisions.

In the light of the views expressed by the two Welsh local authority associations I have retained the same method for determining next year's expenditure targets as that used in the current year. This enables me to withhold grant in an equitable way by ensuring that the amount of grant withheld from an authority is directly related to its own overspending and not to the expenditure decisions of other authorities.

The targets I have set are very tough for some authorities – but are reasonable for all. Every authority's target gives a cash increase in its current expenditure: the minimum increase is 1½ per cent and the maximum 6 per cent, after making allowance for the reduction in the national insurance surcharge next year and a modest amount of budget drift.

The grant withholding penalty for spending in excess of targets has been strengthened. As in the present year the amount of grant withheld for excess expenditure up to 1 per cent above target is 40 per cent of that excess but above that level the rate of holdback increases progressively with a maximum rate of 90 per cent for authorities spending 5 per cent or more above target: this compares with a maximum rate of grant withholding in the current year of 75 per cet at 6 per cent spending above target.



Jones: Bureaucratic dictatorship

I am retaining the grant protection arrangements already adopted whereby any authority spending at or below target will be exempted from both grant holdback and close-ending. Similarly the limitation of grant holdback for low rateable resource authorities set in the present year will be retained for 1984-85.

Block grant will be distributed in accordance with the grant related expenditure formulae agreed by the Welsh local authority associations. I have decided to retain the existing block grant mechanisms which determine the distribution of blok grant before holdback and the same safety net for limiting grant losses associated with changes in GRE – a maximum 4p loss at the county level and 1p loss at the district level.

There is a continuing need for restraint in local government expenditure. Some progress has been made on this front but there is still some way to go. Since 1978/79 Local Government current expenditure in Wales has risen by about 2 per cent more than the increase in costs for the economy as a whole. We must reverse this trend.

Clearly if authorities are to meet their targets for next year this growth on manpower must be reversed. I appreciate of course that authorities have difficult choices of priority to make but that applies in all areas of public expenditure, including my own programmes.

What happens to rates next year will of course depend on the decisions of authorities themselves. Here I will simply make two points. Authorities can on average increase their net revenue expenditure next year by nearly 4 per cent and still spend in line with targets. And if authorities spend at this level and apply only half of the balances they have applied in the present year, rate increases would average only 1 per cent. Indeed rates could fall if authorities applied balances to the same extent as in the current year.

There figures are a very far cry from some of those which have been bandied about; for example the average rate increase of 17 per cent reported in the press. I regard this figure as wildly exaggerated and simply do not believe it.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Alyn and Deeside). It is a flagrant act of injustice to impose even more impossible targets and tougher penalties on authorities who cannot cut priority services and have genuinely tried to restrain expenditure. How can we ever again see local elections as having real meaning?

The cumulative effect of the statement guarantees substantial average rate increases.

This is a black day for local government in Wales. This statement and the new Bill indicate that the Government are advancing towards a form of bureaucratic dictatorship forcing councils to be the very executioners of their own services. Increasingly there is a flavour of colonial government about the Secretary of State which is not appreciated in Wales.

Mr Edwards: His predecessor made exactly the same forecast of double figure rate increases, but rate increases in Wales have averaged less than 1 per cent. His exaggerated claims this year will prove equally unfounded.

Exactly the same things were said last year, and 32 out of 45 authorities achieved the targets that I had set without any penalty.

I am confident that Welsh local authorities will be able to provide a high level of services within the expenditure I have announced.

£1 makes a hole in the pocket

HOUSE OF LORDS

The £1 coin was now being called "a maggie" because it was hard, had rough edges, and pretended to be a sovereign, **Lord Wallace of Coslany**, for the Oppostion, said at question time in the House of Lords when peers urged the Government not to withdraw the £1 note from circulation.

Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, who replied, told him: I was not aware of that. I could tell Lord Wallace something on the same lines about the 50p piece when his party was in power.

The minister said it was the Government's intention to withdraw the £1 note from circulation in due course once the public had had time to become accustomed to the £1 coin. The need for a coin resulted from the way the £1 note deteriorated now that less frequent replacement was feasible.

When **Lord Molson** (C) asked if the Government had considered substituting a plastic note for the paper one, Lord Glenarthur replied that the Isle of Man had recently introduced a plastic £1 note. Evaluation by the Bank of England suggested plastic notes were not a suitable alternative to paper notes. They were not as secure from forgery and for that reason the Government did not propose to go ahead with anything on those lines.

Lady Birk, for the Opposition, said the weight of the coins was such that she had already gone through one purse and the coins had fallen through her husband's pocket.

In view of inflation (she added) it is expensive to replace the trousers and the wallet. (Laughter)

Lord Glenarthur: I do not have as many £1 coins in my pocket as Lady Birk has. I suggest she invites her husband to change the £1 coins for a £5 note.

He said that no announcement had been made about the point at which the £1 would be withdrawn from circulation. The £1 note lasted only 11 months and the coin 40 years.

Research into exam results

EDUCATION

The Cox and Marks report on standards in English Schools, which claimed that secondary modern and grammar schools together had better examination results that comprehesives, was defended by **Sir Keith Joseph**, Secretary of State for Education and Science, during questioning time in the Commons.

He had been asked by **Mr Harry Greenway** (Ealing North, C) what studies were in hand to examine the relationship between academic results and the form of organization of secondary schools.

Sir Keith Joseph: The department is not currently sponsoring any research studies which are concerned solely with this topic; but is assessing the possibilities for research in this area as a preliminary to considering whether public funds should be committed to it.

Mr Greenway: would he confirm that his statistics are satisfactory contrary to earlier press reports that recent research into examination results in grammar and secondary modern schools as against comprehensives was valid, that a proper sample was taken and is professionally sound?

Will he in future consider the National Counicl for Education Standards equally with the National Childrens' Bureau and other such bodies for grant purposes since both are equally valid research. Would he agree this repudiates research by Labour MPs on educational idealogy?

Sir Keith Joseph: It is clear from the letter I published from my statisticians that they never used the word "flawed" this report was valid and that the difference between them and the report was one which is often argued between professional researchers.

I regret that the officials who advised me on this have been accused of acting with political motives and that one has been named.

I am satisfied that the officials who advised me was utterly objective and understand and respect Government policy and that it is for local education authorities to propose change in the organization of schools. I shall consider all proposals for research on their merits.

Mr Giles Radice, chief opposition spokesman on education (Durham North, Lab): I thank him for his handsome apology, in responding to my letter to *The Times* of December 3, at the report stage of the Education Support Grant Bill.

But is he aware that the issue still remains whether he is prepared to accept the professional advice of his department that the Cox and Marks study seriously underestimated the impact of social and economic factors on examination results?

Will he reassure the House he intends to live up to the standards of his high office and his own previous standards as a Fallow of All Souls and refuse to give the backing of public money to Cox and Marks who have broken the cardinal rule of research by fixing the evidence (Conservative protests) to produce results which confirm their own particular prejudices?

Sir Keith Joseph: No. I totally deny the proposition about the attitude of Cox and Marks. The areas of disagreement is one that often occur between statisticians. I shall consider all proposals on their merits.

Procedure for closing schools unchanged

Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, asked if his department would publish guidelines for use when closure of village schools were proposed. said that Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State, saw no need to change present procedures.

Proposals to close village schools, like proposals for all schools, are decided (he said) on their merits, having regard to all the relevant factors involved.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C): There is deep public concern about village school closures. Publication of guidelines on the size of schools, distances from alternative schools, travel conditions and so on would help to reassure people.

Mr Dunn: We have made this known from time to time. There may well be good and special reasons for keeping very small schools open. Where this is so, the minister decides accordingly; where there are no such reasons it is not sensible to devote scarce educatinal resources to keeping excess places in use. This diverts resources from better use, perhaps in a school in another village.

Educational needs of unemployed

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State, for Education, said during question time that he would shortly be discussing with the Secratary of State for Health and Social Security (Mr Norman Fowler) recommendations made in a recent report published by Youth aid about students who receive unemployment benefit.

He said the report gave a useful indication of the use of the 21-hour rule in further education colleges and schools and proposed ways improving access to education for the unemployed.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C): The 21-hour provision will be extremely useful for young people coming off the youth training scheme. What is the department doing to persuade those colleges which do not offer 21-hour study to do so?

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree that it will be a useful option for those concerned while they are seeking jobs, particularly since the qualification of three months unemployment has been removed by the Department of Health and Social Security. On his second point, I am considering ways what ways are open to us.

Mr Barry Sheerman, an Opposition spokesman on education (Huddersfield): This Christmas, 25 per cent of teenagers are on the dole. Many of them would very much like to pursue course of education rather than merely signing on the dole.

The whole interface between the availability of work, the eligibility of benefit and the ability to qualify for the youth training scheme is in a mess that is not understood by DHSS managers and local education authorities. The result is that many young men and women who would like to pursue education while they are waiting for a job are forced not to be able to.

Sir Keith Joseph: He limits his remarks to teenagers. There are very few 16-year-olds as a proportion of that vintage on the dole.

The 21-hours rule is an extremely useful option for those who wish to do some part-time study while waiting for employment.

Government against a new council

The Government has decided not to set up a national development council to promote future developments in adult continuing education.

Mr Peter Brooke, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the Commons that discussions were taking place with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education about the role the institute might play in these circumstances.

Mr Jack Dormand (Easington, Lab): *In view of the pathetic record of this Government in adult continuing education, the decision not to set up a development council is a clear indication they do not have any interest whatever in this.*

Abuses by professional fund raisers

The principle of charitable giving was too important in the community to be besmirched by the activities of a few reckless or dishonest people, **Mr David Mellor**, Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs, said in replying to a Commons debate on charities early this (Tuesday) morning. The Government would keep a close eye on this situation as it developed.

He said there was room for professionals – people doing the job for money – in this scheme just as in any other. But there came a point where professional fund-rainsing could tip over into a pocket-lining exercise on the part of certian individuals or companies for which the benefiting society seemed to be only a front. This was not acceptable to the Government.

It remained to be demonstrated that the present law was inadequate to deal with these abuses, but there was no doubt that the question of abuse was much more on the lip of people's tongues today than at any time in the past.

Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk, C), who opened the debate, said charities played a major role in the nation's life and spending limits had enhanced their importance. At the same time the activities of rogue charities were undermining confidence in the legitimate organizations.

Action was needed not just to eradicate malpractices but to ensure that the responsible organizations were able to continue their work. The solution involved mainly voluntary action, but it needed Government encouragement and stimulus to get it going.

The Consolidated Fund Bill passed through all its stages.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Why has the Conservative lead in the opinion polls narrowed so sharply? Perhaps, after the Government's series of misfortunes in the past six months, we should be asking: Why are the Conservatives still ahead at all?

There is always likely to be an early public reaction against a party that wins a massive election victory. No government would find it easy to live up to that kind of majority that Mrs Thatcher won in June Only miracles would do, and Mrs Thatcher has been distinctly short of miracles in her second term.

Perhaps the very size of the majority has bred complacency on the front bench and restlessness on the backbenches. Perhaps Mr Francis Pym's dire probecy is already being borne out. Perhaps; but while I am sure that Mr Pym was right that very large majorities are not conducive to good government, I am doubtful if it has much to do with the Government's present discontents.

A large majority was not the cause of Mr Parkinson's trubles. It was no more than marginally relevant to the mishandling of the capital punishment debate or the muddle over MPs' pay. It had absolutley nothing to do with Grenada. The banana skins were not wheeled along by surplus Conservative MPs. That they arrived so closely together was largely bad luck.

If the Government's difficulties could be attributed solely to the banana skins, it would not need to worry too much. It could reasonably hope that its luck would turn in good time. But there has also been a much more damaging impression that the Government has in general lost its way, that having won a majority it has mislaid its strategy.

Intentions radical but plans limited

No minister can command cnfidence if they give the impression of not knowing quite what it is they are trying to do. Is this still a radical, reforming administration? Or has it become a government consolidation?

There are two tests to apply in attempting to discover any government's intentions: the test of planning and the test of rhetoric. Early this year it became fashionable to say that Mrs Thatcher needed a new mandate before embarking on her more radical plans for transforming the British economy and society. Then, when the mandate was obtained, it became clear that, while her inclinations were radical, her plans were limited.

The Government was equipped to push ahead with the privatization of industry and further union reform. There were also the proposals for abolishing the metropolitan councils and restricting rate rises, but those could hardly be regarded as central to the Thatcherite strategy. Beyond those areas the Government was in no position to be radical because it had neither prepared, nor prepared the country for, its plans.

This need not have given an impression of drift if Conservative rhetoric had indicated that the second Thatcher Administration would concentrate on efficient management with some measured change. But the rhetoric was confusing. Mrs Thatcher's style remained radical, but the substance of her campaign was cautious.

Increase in income tax foreshadowed

The signals have remained uncertain. During the election there was no indication that public expenditure would have to be reduced. Then Mr Lawson took his first opportunity as the new Chancellor to ring the alarm bells.

By the time of the party conference he was proclaiming that tax cuts were to be a high priority, and that high growth – which would be necessary for non-inflationary tax cuts – could be achieved only by lower government spending. At the same time Mr Biffan was declaring that there was not much scope for reducing public spending overall.

A month later Mr Lawson himself, when producing his autumn statement, foreshadowed not a cut but an increase in income tax. A number of his colleagues do nof seem to believe that that will be necessary.

Perhaps he was simply seeking to ensure that any tax cut would take the country by surprise, but he will do this only by giving the impression of taking himself by surprise.

It is this kind of uncertainty as to where the Government's strategy is taking it that is more unsettling than any number of banana skins. Luck may change. Confusion needs to be corrected.

Genetic engineering: 3

Super mice lead the field

Genetic engineering will soon transform agriculture by producing super-breeds of farm animals and crops. In the final part of his series, CLIVE COOKSON looks at experiments to alter the genes of plants and mammals and concludes with the emotive issue of human genetic engineering.

Outsize mice scampering around a veterinary research laboratory in the United States are the most striking demonstration so far of the potential of genetic engineering to transform mammals, including humans.

Genetic manipulation of higher amimals and plants is perhaps seven of eight years behind the research on simple simle single-cell bacteria, described in the first article of this series. The complex arrangement of the material (DNA) in animal and plant chromosomes is not understood well enough for scientists to splice in a particular gene and make it work in the correct tissues at the right time.

But the "giant mice" experiment; a collaborative effort by Dr Richard Palmiter, of the University of Washington in Seattle, and Dr Ralph Brinster, of the University of Pennsylvania, shows what can be acheved with our present imperfect understanding. Dr Brinster injected many copies of a rat growth hormone gene produced by Dr Palmiter into fertilized mouse eggs which were then implahted in foster mother mice.

Some of the resulting baby mice grew to twice normal size, stimulated by high levels of the hormone and, most significantly, they passed the genes on to their own offspring. The original line of double-sized mice, carrying eight rat hormone genes, is now in its fourth generation, and the laboratory has recently produced a similarly sized strain with human growth hormone genes.

Direct micro-injection of DNA is a hit-or-miss method of transforming mammalian eggs; fewer than half of Dr Brinster's mice successfully incorporated the genes, and other laboratories have had less success.

From a technical point of view, similar experiments could be performed on human eggs, but they would be morally unacceptable, given all the uncertainties. The potential for transforming farm amimals is immense, however, and breeders of pigs, sheep, cattle and poultry are rushing to exploit genetic engineering. The first results are likely within two or three years.

Although the most important traits in domestic animals, such as fertility, are affected by a large number of unknown genes, the giant mice experiment showed what impact a single gene could have on the complex process of growth. The overall effect of such a simple transformation remains to be seen: suddenly doubling the size of pigs, for example, could cause breeding or health problems.

Where particular proteins are important for an agricultural product, such as casein in milk and keratin in wool, improvement through genetic engineering should not be difficult. There is also scope for inserting individual genes which confer resistance to certain animal diseases or which change the reproductive system (for instance a twinning gene is known in sheep).

But plants contribute more than animals to world food supplies, and an even bigger agricultural research effort is devoted to their genetic manupulation. This year, plant engineers have passed several milestones on the road to an arable paradise of nutritious crops growing faster that today's, whatever the weather, without added pesticides or fertilizer:

- A bacterial gene for resistance to an antibiotic worked in petunia cells, the first success with foreign DNA in plant cells.
- Tobacco plantlets produced a bean protein, the first genetic transformation of whole plants.
- Tobacco was given a hybrid gene that not only conferred antibiotic resistance but also was switched on by light and off by darkness, a key step towards regulating the function of genetically engineered plants.

Progress has been most rapid in broad-leaved plants, such as tobacco and petunia, for two important reasons. First, scientists have found a natural carrier, called the Ti plasmid, which readily inserts foreign DNA into their cells. Second, the regeneration of a whole plant from a single cell is possible for certain broad-leaved species.

Unfortunately, neither technique is yet applicable to staple crops such as rice, wheat and maize.

However, plant scientists such as Dr John Ingle, who heads the Agricultural Research Council's genetic engineering programme, report rapid progress. Genetic manipulation of any plant will soon be possible.

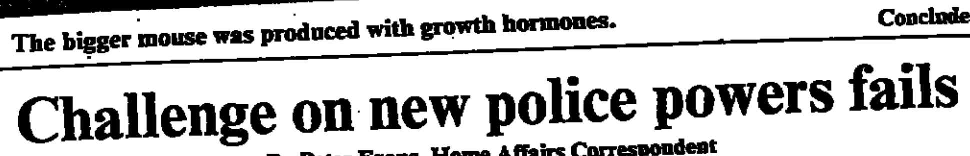
The most glamorous ambition of plant engineering is to make all crops take their own nitrogen from the air, as clover and beans already do, with the help of bacteria living in their roots. One of the greatest constraints on world food production would disappear if farmers no longer had to spend millions on nitrogen fertilizers.

The 17 genes involved in bacterial nitrogen fixation are all known. The main problem in transferring them to plants is that the chemical process works only when oxygen is excluded. The bacteria can keep out oxygen but it may be extremely difficult to achieve similar conditions within wheat cells. However, Dr Ingle says: "I do not think this is as far-fetched as one might think".

Even less far-fetched is genetic engineering of humans, the most exciting and emotive of all applications. Many researchers expect serious clinical trials to begin within five to ten years, treating inherited diseases by correcting a faulty gene or inserting a good new gene.

Many people react strongly against the idea of tampering with the genetic make-up of humanity as it has evolved. Few, however, could object to "phenotypic" therapy with the aim of curing a disease by changing the genes in, for example, blood cells, for the lifetime of an individual.

Concluded



The bigger mouse was produced with growth hormones.



Heat and frost: Fireman fighting a blaze in Justice, Illinois, found ice and freezing winds an additional hazard.

Arctic freeze brings chaos to Mid West

New York (AP) – America's heartland yesterday suffered its fourth consecutive day of record-breaking cold which has left at least 22 people dead. A frigid wind from the Arctic left cars immobilized, pipes burst and schools closed.

With temperatures well below freezing across the northern third if the country, the National Weather Service predicted that scattered snow would bring additional disruption from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes.

The Platte River froze in Nebraska and ice floes backed up for five miles. Ice burst water mains as far south as Fort Worth, Texas. A bus driver in Seattle collapsed and died while trying to free his bus from the snow by throwing sand under it. Minor traffic accidents were too numerous to count.

Many roads were impassable around Buffalo, New York, which had 3ft off snow over the weekend.

Williston, North Dakota, was the coldest place, with -40°C until a reading came in from Saint Cloud, Minnesota, of -41°C. Then Harrison, Wisconsin, reported -44°C.

The Arctic air mass is expected to drift slowly east during the next few days, giving some relief to the Midewst but bringing freezing weather to the East, according to Mr Harry Gordon, a meteorologist at the National Severe Storms Forecast centre in Kansas City, Missouri.

The 22 deaths included traffic casualties on slippery roads in Idaho, Missouri and Utah, carbon monoxide poisonings in Oklahoma and exposure

Japan's poll gloom turns to relief

From Richard Hanson Tokyo

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party yesterday began putting itself back together after tumbling dangerously near to disaster in Sunday's general election.

Investors appeared reassured that the party would continue its rule, unbroken since 1955. The popular Mikkei Dow indicator of stock market performance leapt 143.76 points to a new record high of 9,627.98 after dropping sharply when the party's majority seemed in doubt on Monday morning. The yen also gained against the dollar – up 1.3 to 235.05.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, was officially able to add eight successful conservative independent candidates to the party roster, thus regaining a thin simple majority, with 258 seats in the 511-member Lower House, which is expected to convene to elect the Prime Minister early next week. The party won only 250 seats, an unexpected setback which had briefly knocked the wind out of the equity and exchange markets a day earlier.

But Mr Nakasone faces a tough few days. Yesterday, he called a Cabinet meeting in which he reportedly said he was sorry for the result. Three ministers – defence, transport and education – were defeated on Sunday.

The so-called mainstream factions, which elected Mr Nakasone last year, continue to support him. This includes the largest, whose leader, former Prime Minister Mr Kakuei Tanaka, was largely responsible for calling the election. Parliamentary turmoil emerged after Mr Tanaka was convicted of bribery on October 12 in the Lockeed scandal.

The party's handling of Post-conviction anti-Tanaka moves by the opposition proved a serious liability, although Mr Tanaka was reelected by a landslide in his rural home district of Niigata.

By-elections in northern India

Testing time for Mrs Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and her Congress (I) Party have set themselves a big test for this Friday. They have arranged a series of by-elections to the Lower House of Parliament, the Lok Sabwa, and to legislative assemblies in five states.

The five states are all in the north of India, and the test is plainly intended to assess the ruling party's strength in the so-called Hindi belt of the Ganges plains. This is where the main strength of Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party has lain, and here she must win convincingly in any general election is she is to hold on to power securely.

The by-elections will tell her whether her standing has been affected by the recent scandal over adulteration of imported cooking oil with beef dripping. Hindus all over the country, who revere the cow as a sacred animal, now find they have committed the unpardonable sin of ingesting beef fat – albeit unwittingly – as a result, they feel, of government laxiety in granting import lecences.

The by-elections will also tell the party leaders whether they still have the support of the minorities, since there is a good deal of Muslim voting strength in the constituencies picked for the contests.

If Congress can win and win well, the plenary party congress that meets in Calcutta on December 27 will turn into an anointing ceremony before an early general election, which must be held before the end of next year: the most likely times are in the relatively mild months of March or November.

The by-elections are also a testing time for some political heavyweights. Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh, for example, who was recently made Chief Minister of Bihar in place of the discredited Dr Jaganath Misbra, has to win election to the state assembly and has chosen to do so in Banka, a seat which he could lose.

Mrs Gandhi: Assessing Congress strength.

This rather obscure and scruffy town has become the political capital of the state overnight. State ministers are all there, campaigning busily, and showing themselves – at last – to be in touch with their people.

Friday's voting will also be the first big test of the new alignments of the opposition parties. The two main opposition groups – the United Front which centres on the Janata party, and the National Democratic Alliance, combining the Lok Dal of Charan Singh with the Bharatiya Janata Pary – have failed to agree on an electoral pact.

The United Front wanted a proportional distribution of seats among all the opposition parties. The NDA bluntly refused, saying that its parties had either won or been runners-up in every constituency where elections are being held.

This has inevitably meant a splintering of the opposition effort, and Congress may gain thereby. The general secretary of the BJP, however, thinks that the triangular voting actually benefits the oppositions. "No

A decisive victory for the opposition parties will no doubt help the two allainces over an early slump in their morale: a bad defeat may galvanize them into closer relations. The voting will also help to adjudicate the differing claims of electoral strengh, among the factions.

At stake are three Lok Sabha seats – in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana – and 11 assembly seats in those three, plus West Bengal and Rajasthan. Vacant seats in the south have been ignored for the exercise, even though there are 13 Lok Sabha seats and 19 assembly seats vacant throughout the country.

Americans search for their dead in Laos

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

For the first time since the communists won the war in 1975, American troops today are making an on-the-ground search for missing US servicemen in Indo-China. They are investigating a jungle site near Pakse, in southern Laos where an American transport aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire 11 years ago, killing 16 Air Force men. The remains of 13 were never recovered.

Communist authorities have never before permitted the Americans to search for 2,500 men still unaccounted for. The gesture by Laos, which said that it had changed is policy for humanitarian reasons could influence future relations between Washington and communist Indo-China.

An official American spokesman in Bangkok said that his Government was encouraged by the attitude of the Laotians

The Americans had been trying unsuccessfully for years to enter Laos and Vietnam to seek the remains of missing Americans.

The question of the missing Americans has been a serious impediment to the normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam, and, therefore, US officials regard this new concession as a breakthrough which could lead to American recognition of Vietnam.

Challenge on new police powers fails

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Opposition attempts to provide more safeguards against controversial police powers of search and seizure in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill were defeated yesterday.

The powers were relevant to police action against terrorism, Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, said during the Bill's committee stage in the Commons.

Acting on information, the police might wish to enter a "safe house", he said. Terrorists might not have left behind pistols and explosives but letters and bills relating to cars or parking tickets might be there.

Mr Griffiths said that in themselves they might not be fundamental to trial but they would be fundamental to the task or tracing terrorists and apprehending them.

The clause dealt only with serious arrestable offences.

The Opposition sought changes to the Bill to make sure that evidence being sought by the police was of direct substantial value in building up the case, not indidental to the trial, Mr Alf Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea, said.

Police asking for a warrant should have to state how the evidence in question could help with the inquiry.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the hurdles to be jumped in obtaining a warrant were already high.

His worry was that if the law was tightened still further, the power in the Bill could not be operated at all.

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, added there was a danger that a serious extension of police powers would be rubber-stamped if entry and search of premises could be authorized by a magistrate.

The Opposition felt that power to grant a search warrant should be held by a circuit judge who would have experience and independence of mind and be able to see that the police were not launching a fishing expedition.

Mr Hurd said the Government agreed that where confidential material was involved, the hearing for the granting of a search warrant should be at judicial level. But where it was not, magistrates should be empowered to issue the warrant.

Whitehouse wins extremist libel damages

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, won "substantial" libel damages and costs in the High Court yesterday for allegations that she was a dangerous extremist.

Her counsel, Mr John Smyth QC, told Mr Justice Kilner Brown that there was an "intemperate attack" published in *The Observer* in August.

"The passage was nothing short of a charge that Mrs Whitehouse was dangerous to freedom and tolerance, was the sort of person who would have been at home in Nazi Germany or Communist Russia, and was a sign of an unattractive degree of filthy madness as exemplified by the National Front," Mr Smyth said.

Mrs Whitehouse found the charges and others in equally emotive and irrational language as "wholly inexcusable."

The criticism came in an extract of a biography of the BBC's former Director General, Sir Hugh Greene, by Dr Michael Tracey, which was being reviewed.

The newspaper had not sought to suggest there was any truth in the passage, and accepted that its publication was a serious error, Mr Smyth said.

Lloyds liable on 'Curse of King Tut' accident

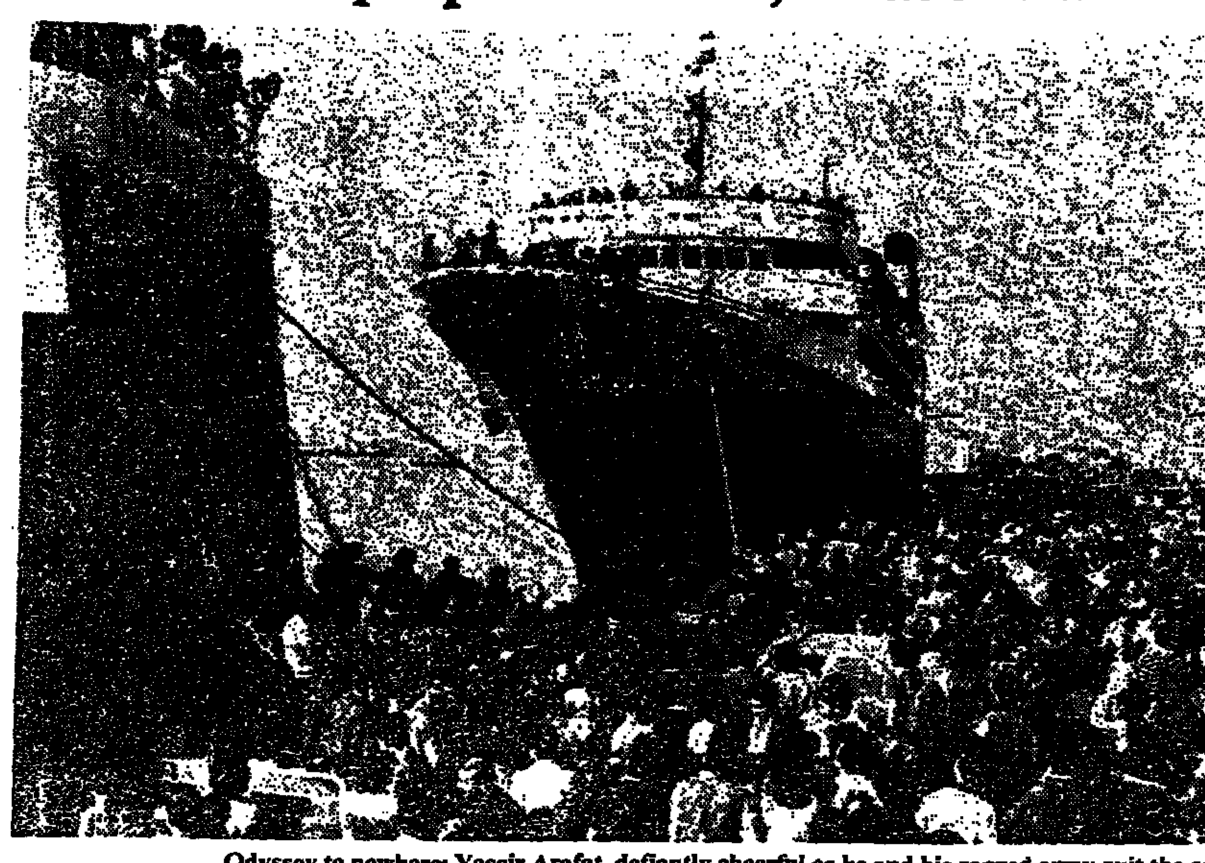
A High Court judge stepped into a legal dispute yesterday over who pays for the curse of King Tutankhamun. HTV Ltd, which made the £1,500,000 film *The Curse of King Tut's Tomb* is claiming damages of more than £245,000 from insurers after a freak accident during filming in Luxor, Egypt, in December, 1979.

Ian McShane, the actor, broke his leg on the set and filming was halted while a replacement was found for the role of the archeologist Howard Carter. But Lloyds Underwriters claimed that their entertainment risk policy did not cover the incident and refused to pay.

Mr Justice Neill described how a vintage model A Ford which the actor was driving for a scene in the film went out of control and over the dege of a plateau.

The judge rejected the plea by the insurers that because of the condition of the brakes on the car the company had not done everything practicable to avoid or diminish loss or damage to the property. He found that the insurers were liable under the policy. But the question of damages is to be decided at a latter hearing.

A homeless people in retreat, a leader with nowhere to lead them





Odyssey to nowhere: Yassir Arafat, defiantly cheerful as he and his ragged army quit the scene of their last defeat.

Arafat sails away with mythical victory

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

They were the same victory signs, the same bursts of gunfire, in many cases the same faces. We had seen them all before and they were again yesterday in another expensive production of the same old epic.

After humiliating defeat, Mr Yassir Arafat turns disgrace into mythical victory, persuading his 4,000 men that they are on their way to Palestine and sailing off into the sunset on a dreamboat appropriately named Odysseus. They left behind them, as before, another Lebanese city that they had helped to destroy.

They took everything with them, their Mercedes limousines, their broken lorries, torn blankets, old tyres and rubbish tins, like children unwilling to part with old toys lest they left anything for the Syrians and the Palestinians who had betrayed them. It was both pathetic and demeaning, an image of a homeless people in retreat and a leader with nowhere to lead them. The Lebanese policeman on the quayside put it rather succintly. "Finito" was what he said.

The ritual oldefeat has become almost as familiar as the story of Palestine which always seems to involve people arriving from exile or going into exile on boats. One noticed how old they had become, Arafat's loyal 4,000, how some them walked the dockside with the aid of sticks, not because they had been wounded but because they had been fighting far too long; and how some of the younger men quickly forgot the damning reasons for their jubilation.

There was a youth on the quayside who raised his left hand in the victory salute, balanced an anti-tank rocket launcher on his shoulder, opened his mouth to protect his ears from the air pressur and loosed off a missile across the heads of the thousands around him. Only afterwards, when we smelt his breath, did we realise that he had been drinking.

Three Israeli jets circled tantalizingly overhead but Mr Arafat's warriors threw hand-grenades into the habour for amusement, the undersea explosions banging like a hammer against the hulls of the ships that were rescuing them.

So it had come to this. Why else would the local Lebanese Sunni militiamen, unshaved, bandanas round their heads, newly acquired PLO guns in their hands, have lounged opposite the ships and sneered at the evacuees? "They were worthless and now we are free to do what we want," one of them said, for Tripoli's agony is far from ended.

Why else, too, would one find Ian Davison, a 26 year-old South Shields carpenter, standing in a kuffiah headdress with a Kalashnikov rifle in his arms, waiting to be taken to the ship after only five weeks fighting for Mr Arafat. He was not looking forward to Christmas in Yemen and hoped the PLO would let him have his passport back.

But there were other images yesterday. There were the young men tired from combat embracing wives but still unable to stop looking backwards to the mountains above Badawi, where they lost their last battle.

There were the postage-stamp UN flags on the masts of the evacuation ships which the PLO men preferred not to look at. There was a girl, a very pretty girl with dark hair, who stood at one end of the quay dressed in a black suit and scarf and who just watched silently and unmoving for an hour.

And there at the finale, as always, was Mr Arafat, travelling to the Odysseus in a Range Rover so thick with bodyguards that you could not see him through the glass. Just once on the stern we glimpsed him, kissing a young man on both cheeks, grinning and giving a double-handed victory sign before his bodyguards ordered him from the sight of potential assassins who might just have been among the hundreds of cheering Palestinians below.

Bethlehem attacks feared

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Less than a week before the traditional Christmas Eve celebrations in Israeli-occupied Bethlehem, the new campaign of grenade attacks against religious targets in and around Jerusalem was intensified yesterday. Two booby-trap devices exploded, injuring two people, one seriously.

As in eight similar attacks against non-Jewish targets earlier this month, the Israeli Army-issue grenades used were assumed to have been planted by a new extreme right-wing Jewish terrorist group.

The blasts were claimed in a call to the Israeli Army radio by Terror Against Terror, the group which also claimed responsibility for the previous attacks, including four close to Mount Zion.

The wave of explosions has increased fears about security in Bethlehem, which has long been regarded as a prestige target for both Jewish and Arab terrorists. It is understood that especially tight security precautions will be in operation on December 24 to prevent any group seeking the publicity from an attack which would be ensured world-wide television coverage.

The first of yesterday's blasts occurred before dawn near a mosque on the outskirts and badly injured the muezzin, who had been on his way to call the faithful to dawn prayers

Three hours later and only 300 yards away, the second attack took place at the Greek Orthodox monastery in Bethany, a hillside village where tradition has it that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead: A nun going to tend two goats was wounded in the foot when a grenade fitted with a hair-trigger device exploded.

Israeli police believe that the attacks – which were designed to kill – are being carried out by a small group with Israeli Army training. Their campaign is thought to have been mounted in revenge for the Jerusalem bus bomb planted by the Palestine Liberation Organization earlier this month, an attack that has claimed six lives so far.

The incidents have caused consternation in both Christian and Muslim religious circles where the lack of security for religious institutions is openly acknowledged. They coincide with a drive among some Jewish extremists against the alleged missionary activities of Christian groups in Israel and the occupied territories.

The Hebrew acronym of the group which claimed responsibility is TNT, a similar name to that used by a Jewish terrorist organization active some 10 years ago.

Iraqi leader given Reagan message

Baghdad (Reuter) – Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the US Middle East envoy left Baghdad yesterday after delivering a written message from President Reagan to President Saddam Hussein, the official Iraqi news agency said. Some observers said that this might signal progress towards a resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, severed by Iraq during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, left the United Arab Emirates for Britain yesterday at the end of a nine-nation Middle East tour.

Military errors blamed for Marines massacre

From Christopher Thomas Washington

A congressional report has accused the entire US military chain of command in Beirut of "very serious errors in judgment" that led to the death of 241 American Marines in a bomb attack on October 23.

The report was highly critical of officers on the ground. General Paul Kelly, the Marine Porps commandant, was accused of providing testimony that was "inacurate, erromeous and misleading" when he appeared before the House armed services committee in early November.

The report, produced by the House armed services investigations sub-committee, attributed part of the blame for the disaster to the administration. It complained that the Marines had been hampered in several ways by "political-diplomatic" considerations and said that President Reagan should reexamine the Marine mission in Lebanon or have congress do it for him.

The implicit message behind the report is that the investigators are highly sceptical of the role of American Marines in Beirut. Shortly before the massacre, congress authorized the President to keep troops there for another 18 months. However, vigorous attempts are likely to be made to reverse the decision

An official pentagon investigation into the disaster is due to be published soon. The explosion, which happened when a lorry laden with bombs was rammed through the Marine defences and up to the headquarters building, has redsulted in a review of safety measures,

The report said: "The truck bomb ... rolled through a concertina wire fence that was primarily a personnel barrier. It went between guard posts where the guards had their guns unloaded ... it went through a gate that was generally left open ... iron pipes in front of the building were not large enough to stop the vehicle ...".

It called to account "the higher policy-making authority that adopted and continued a policy that placed military units in a deployment where protection was inevitably inadequate".

Pretoria-Maputo deal may leave ANC isolated

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A South African delegation, led by Mr Pik Botha, the Foreign Minister, yesterday held talks with senior Mozambique ministers in Swasiland.

The Mozambique news agency quoted President Machel as saying that the talks were essential in finding a *modus vivandi* in southern Africa.

The South African delegation included General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, and Mr Louis le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order. The Mozambique side was led by Mr Jacinto Veloso, the Minister of Economic Affairs.

"The main objective is that no country attacks another. Neighbours are not chosen. They may bother us, or we may bother them," President Machel said. He was speaking at a conference in Guinea-Bissau of former Portuguese colonies in Africa.

Mozambique, which subscribes to a broadly Marxist ideology, has been the target of two armed attacks this year by South Africa, which claimed they were aimed at buildings occupied by African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas.

A possible outcome could be an agreement, with Mozambique cracking down on ANC use of the country as a sanctuary in return for a cessation of South African military aid to insurgents opposed to the Maputo Government. South Africans deny publicly that they give such aid, but this is discounted by observers.

Lesotho has promised to supply Pretoria with more information about a plot allegedly being hatched in South Africa for the overthrow of the tiny kingdom's government by a group of mercenaries operating under instructions from an unnamed foreign power.

Lesotho revealed the coup plan on Monday night. Diplomats in Maseru, the capital, were called for a briefing by Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, the Foreign Minister, and a message was also sent to the U.N.

Pretoria denies any knowledge of the plot, but says it would be ready to cooperate in an investigation "as a matter of urgency" once it had been given "comprehensive details".

● **PRETORIA:** Three white South African soldiers were killed during clashes with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) the army chief of staff aid here (AFP reports).

Washington cuts aid to Zimbabwe

From Our Correspondent Washington

Washington plans to cut economic aid to Zimbabwe by nearly half, to $40m (£26m) in the 1984 fiscal year which could further strain their relations.

Administration officials denied that the aid cut resulted directly from tensions between the two governments over recent Zimbabwe votes at the U.N.

They admitted, however, that "it is no secret that there have been differences of opinion between the U.S. and Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe recently co-sponsored a U.N. resolution criticizing the "armed intervention" by the U.S. in Grenada. It also abstained in the Security Council in September on a U.S. sponsored resolution criticizing the Soviet Union for shooting down a South Korean airliner.

The officials blamed the aid cuts on congress, saying it approved less than the Administration had requested. Congress had also earmarked more than originally expected for several other countries.

African 14 scold West for neglect

Harare (AP) – A two-day summit on African trade ended here yesterday with a swipe at developed countries and international institutions for dwindling support to the Third World and a renewed pledge by 14 nations to go it alone in their quest for economic power.

"Our deliberations have produced yet further evidence of a collective ability and desire to restructure the economies of our region on the basis of interactivity and interdependence," Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister and chairman of the second summit of the Eastern and Southern Preferential Trade Area, told delegates.

The economic community of 14 African nations, representing a fifth of the continent's 500 million people, seeks to loosen traditional trade ties with rich industrialized countries

Members of Africa's newest economic community are: Burundi, the Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Briefing for Thatcher on Kissinger mission

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Henry Kissinger will discuss his forthcoming report on Central America with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street today.

The former US Secretary of State has just returned from Venezuela where he assured President Luis Herrera Campins and President-elect Jaime Lusinchi that his commission was seeking the demilitarization of Central America, economic development and the creation of pluralist democracies.

He said these would be the objectives set out in the report, to be completed in February. He wanted to see the countries of Central America live in peace, free from foreign interference.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will also be at Downing Street. Dr Kissinger discussed the report at the Foreign Office yesterday with Lady Young, Minister of State with responsibility for North and South America.

The meetings have been arranged at his request during a private visit to London, according to Whitehall sources. The US Embassy said it was unaware of Dr Kissinger's programme.

● **PANAMA CITY:** Some Central American countries mayb be having second thoughts about the Contadora group's 21-point peace plan for the region, according to diplomatic sources (Reuter reports).

The Foreign Ministers of the four countries which make up the group in Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela gathered here yesterday to discuss how their proposals could be put into practice.

The Contadora countries originally intended Central American represenatives to attend the talks, but the meeting including them was postponed.

"Some countries may feel reluctant to commit themselves at this stage", one senior foreign diplomat said.

Key provisions of the plan, approved by Central American countries in Panama in September, include withdrawal of foreign military advisers and an end to support for rebel groups in the region.

● **MANAGUA:** Nicaragua said that about 2,000 US backed rebels had launched a new offensive, penetrating deep into the northern province of Jinotega (Reuter reports).

The right-wing rebels, of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), entered the country from bases neighbouring Honduras and have fought a series of battles

● **SAN SALVADOR:** The Salvadorean right-wing leader, Señor Roberto D'Aubuisson, has been named presidential candidate of the Arena Party (Reuter reports).

Political sources said that Señor D'Aubuisson would step down as president of the Constituent Assembly, as required by law. The election is due to take place on March 25.

Swiss angry at action of Italian agents

Rome (Reuter) – Switzerland has protested officially to Italy against what it terms repeated violation of Swiss sovereignty by Italian secret agents, Italian foreign ministry officials said yesterday.

They confirmed local press reports which said a diplomatic Note, presented to the Italian ambassador in Berne on Monday, warned Italy that if the violations continued relations between the two countries could suffer.

Switzerland also demanded an explanation for a statement by an Italian official last August about Italian secret service operations outside a jail where Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the illegal P-2 Masonic Lodge, was held before his escape.

Peruvian police general shot

General Carlos Herrera, a senior officer of the Peruvian plainclothes police, was shot dead by four men in Lima yesterday (our Foreign Staff writes).

The attack on General Herrera, commander of the police training school, came hours after the police had claimed to have captured Antonio Diaz Martinez, one of the leading figures in the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrilla movement.

Abortion doctor must pay up

Bonn – A doctor who carries out an unsuccessful abortion must pay compensation to the mother and maintenance for the child if negligence can be proved, a West German appeal court ruled yesterday.

The court, at Zweibrücken in Saarland, ordered an unidentified woman gynaecologist to pay £765 compensation to a 42 year-old woman, now a mother of five.

Murdoch buys

Chicago (Reuter) – Field Enterprises said yesterday it has signed a final agreement to sell the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the country's seventh largest-selling daily newspaper, to Mr Rupert Murdoch, for $90m (£64m) cash.



The new West German Ambassador to Britain, Baron Ruediger von Wechmar, aged 60, who takes up his post today. He served as Ambassador in Rome after representing Germany at the United Nations for seven years.

Ciskei ruling

Bisho, Ciskei (AFP). – The Supreme Court here has ruled that the Ciskei authorities should immediately bring Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Secretary-General of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' conference before the court. He was arrested seven weeks ago.

Church demand

East Berlin (Reuter) – The East German Protestant Church has demanded the release of two women pacifists arrested last week after meeting a member of the British Campaign for Nuclear Dismarmament.

Drought appeal

Geneva (AP) – The International Red Cross, citing worsening drought conditions in Mauritania, has launched an international appeal for 17 million Swiss francs (£5.4m) in cash and kind.

Rwanda 'choice'

Kigali, (AFP) – Major-General Juvenal Habyarimana was reelected President of Rwanda with more than 99 per cent of the vote in Monday's presidential election.

Sentences to stay

Seoul (AFP) – A Seoul Appeal Court has upheld the prison sentences imposed in August on six Chinese hijackers who forced a Chinese domestic airliner to South Korea in May.

Eating again

Brussels (Reuter) – University students on hunger strike in Brussels since November 22 in protest against a Bill to restrict immigration have ended their fast.

Pandora bounty

Brisbane (AFP) – A cannon and other artefacts have been recovered by divers from HMS Pandora, a British frigate wrecked in 1791 while carrying mutineers from HMS Bounty back to England for trial.

EEC faces cheese-paring if money is to last

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission is being forced into a drastic cheese-paring exercise in an attempt to find enough money to last the EEC throughout next year. This follows the adoption yesterday of the 1984 budget by Mr Piet Dankert, President of the Parliament, despite a last-minute plea by member-states.

The £15,500m budget is clearly not going to meet all the Community's obligations in 1984. And no matter what steps the Commission takes it is likely that some bills will have to remain upaid after September.

In turning down the Council of Ministers' request to think again, Mr Dankert has served notice that the Parliament is determined to stake its claim to a larger shre in community decision-making. With direct election coming in June, it could hardly do less.

It also means that the only quick and certain way in which Britain's frozen £457m rebate – which is included in the 1984 budget – can be released is for there to be rapid agreement on Community reforms.

The alternative would be for either the Council or Britain to start court proceedings against the Parliament for having adopted a budget which is legally suspect.

Mr Dankert made it quite clear yesterday that he utterly rejects the Council suggestion that it was illegal to transfer the British rebate money to a category which could be frozen.

The frozen rebate, however, is nothing but an irritating side issue to the Commission, which now has to find extra money somewhere if it is to manage the 1984 budget.

Retirement at 59 for West Germans

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

West German workers will be able to retire at 59 under a Government plan announced yesterday, to find jobs for younger people and reduce unemployment of more than two million.

Under the voluntary scheme, workers who opt for early retirement will be paid a minimum of 65 per cent of their former gross pay. But retirement agreements will be negotiated between employers and employees, and there will be no upper limit on pensions.

Firms which replace an early retirer with an unemployed younger adult or take on a school leaver as an extra apprentice, will receive a state subsidy of 40 per cent of their contributions to their former employee's pension and health insurance.

Herr Norbert Blüm, the Bonn Labour Minister, yesterday described the plan as a "job creation pact between the state, workers and trade unions." He added: "It is a model of cooperation in difficult times. It is also a contribution to solidarity between the generations, offering relief to older workers and a chance of employment for the younger."

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet on Monday, is expected to become law next April and will apply for five years. All workers aged between 59 and 65 will be eligible for early retirement without question, except for those in firms with 20 or fewer employees who will reqire their employer's agreement.

The scheme will not apply to civil servants, Herr Blüm said, because they already had their own part time and "flexitime" working arrangements.

Lambsdorff works on in Cabinet

From Our Correspondent Bonn

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, who has been charged with corruption, is to remain in office until further notice, the chief government spokesman said yesterday.

Herr Peter Boenisch told a press conference that this has been agreed in a talk between Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Herr Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister and Free Democrat leader, and Count Lambsdorff.

Count Lambsdorff in a statement confirmed that "my work as Federal Minister for Economics goes on," his decision was based on his "good conscience" he added. "I will not let unfounded charges push me out of office."

Arms found in Solidarity priest's flat

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A secret cache of explosives, ammunition, an illegal printing press and thousands of leaflets calling for demonstrations was discovered in the apartment of a radical pro-solidarity priest in Warsaw, the Polish authorities disclosed yesterday.

The flat was being rented by Father Jerzy Popieluszko, whose outspoken sermons attacking martial law and official abuses of human rights have earned him a following of thousands of Solidarity supporters and the suspicion of the security police.

The find is a serious upset to the Catholic Church leadership, which has until now been able to sustain an uneasy compromise between statesmanlike appeals for calm and reconciliation with the militancy of parish priests, many of whom say that the church must more actively defend the suffering and persecuted.

Senior Church representatives managed to secure the release of Father Popieluszko last week, but investigations are continuing on the basis of at least two serious charges – possession and storage of explosives and ammunition and preparing action to disturb public order.

Father Popieluszko had been held for questioning about other charges, concerning abuse of his religious rights by injecting politics into his services, and police say they then found the keys to his apartment.

Normally Father Popieluszko lives in a small cramped room in the rectory of his church of St Stanislaw Kostka, in the Zoliborz suburb of Warsaw. His congregation includes many workers from the Huta Warszawa steelworks who had been acting as his bodyguards

If the authorities can produce concrete evidence that the Church has been giving material support to the underground opposition, and is even preparing for violence, they will have an important propaganda breakthrough.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, confirmed yesterday that there had been trouble in the Barcezewo prison, which houses Solidarity prisoners. Informed sources say that Solidarity is trying to win political prisoner status

Leading article, page 13

Threnody for the aged carp of Copenhagen

Copenhagen (AP) – The beloved old carp at Denmark's aquarium, senile for weeks, finally has gone the way of all fish.

"We are naturally a little sad, he was kind of a friend to us," Dr Arne Schioetz, the aquarium director said. "It was a regular ritual to let him suck our fingers."

Nobody really knows how old the grey European carp was when it died on Monday, but Dr Schioetz's educated estimate is that it was at least 45 years old.

The dead fish, or at least part of it, will remain on display, in a museum at Copenhagen University.

Ship where war ended returns to duty

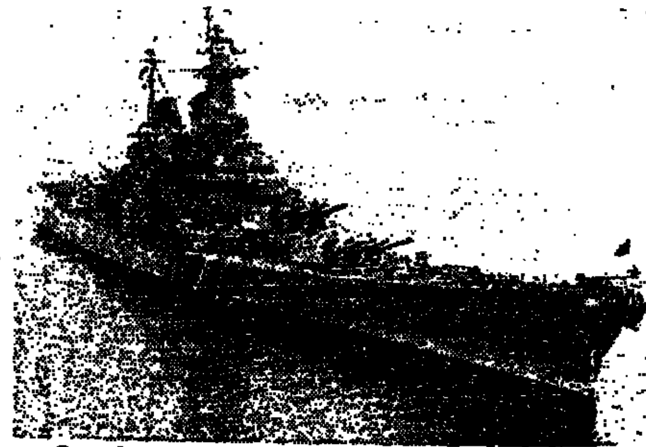
From Our Own Correspondent Washington

After 29 years in mothballs the USS Missouri, the American battleship on whose decks the Japanese surrendered at the end of the Second World War, is to be returned to active duty.

The 887ft 45,000-ton battleship was anchored off Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, when the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur, representing the allied powers, and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimmitz for the United States.

She is equipped with 16in guns, comparable to the largest at present possessed by US Navy vessels, capable of delivering 2,500lb projectiles 23 miles. Currently she is something of a tourist attraction among ships in the "inactive fleet" at the Puget Sound naval shipyard, Bremerton, Washington State.

The ship is in good condition. The outside was coated with preservatives when she was taken out of commission



Out of mothballs: The battleship Missouri in action

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*THE GROSS RATES QUOTED APPLY TO BASIC RATE TAX PAYERS ONLY. ALL INTEREST RATES ARE VARIABLE. MAXIMUM TOTAL HOLDING £30,000 (£60,000 FOR A JOINT ACCOUNT). HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX HX1 2RG.

González flies to Paris seeking joint action against Basque terror

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister who is on a private visit to Paris, met yesterday against a backdrop of growing exasperation in Madrid with French attitudes to its EEC entry and to Basque refugees in France.

There has been no official visit between the two socialist leaders since Señor González came to power just over a year ago, but there has been frequent encounters at ministerial level between the two countries.

An organization called the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder in Bayonne on Monday night of an alleged Spanish Basque terrorist, Ramón Oniadera, who has lived in France since 1979.

Señor Oniadera was serving behind a bar when three of four men burst in and shot him. The group was later seen escaping in a car licensed in Navarre, Spain.

There has been an increasing number of attacks and kidnap attempts against Spanish refugees in the French Basque country over the past few months, and there are strong suspicions that the Spanish police may be involved.

Four Spanish police in plain clothes were recently caught red-handed by French police in Bayonne as they tried to kidnap a suspected leading member of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization. They were imprisoned and charged with premeditated wounding, but were released earlier this month, allegedly for lack of evidence.

It was noted, however, that their release came only a few days after an anonymous caller had telephoned the Red Cross in San Sebastian, in the Spanish Basque country, demanding their liberation in return for the release of M Segundo Marey, a businessman of Spanish origin, living in the French Basque border town of Hendaye, who had been kidnapped two days earlier.

Responsibility for the kidnapping of M Marey, who was freed last week, was claimed by the hitherto unknown Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group.

In its latest telephoned message to a newspaper in St Jean-de-Luz, the group said that Señor Oniadera's murder was part of "the systematic line of attack against ETA terrorists which we are going to pursue to the bitter end in France in the coming weeks. The murders recently committed in the Spanish Basque country will meet with a firm response.

"Today's execution is only the beginning. We will demonstrate in the same way against any French people who hide, collaborate with or give work to terrorists . . . You will hear from us again soon."

Spain feels that, despite initial promises of closer cooperation after Señor González came to power, France has done little to help tackle the Basque terrorist problem, which has caused 15 deaths in about 60 attacks in the last three months alone. It claims that the French Basque country has become a sanctuary for ETA militants.

The other big bone of contention is France's apparent dragging of its feet over Spain's application to join the EEC. French farmers, particularly in the fruit and wine-growing area of the south-west, are vehemently opposed to Spain or Portugal's entry, fearing that their markets will be swamped by the unrestricted import of cheaper products.

Earlier this month, however, Señor González described as "very positive" President Mitterrand's latest comments on the enlargement of the community, in which he called on the Ten to at least set a date for a decision.

● MADRID: The Basque autonomous Government yesterday condemned what it called "dirty war methods" of fighting terrorism after the Bayonne killing (Richard Wigg writes).

Protests were held in towns on the Spanish side of the frontier, with main road traffic blocked at Renteria, where deomonstrators carried banners reading: "You are the terrorists – González, Mitterrand."



No sale: Mr Regan, the US Treasury Secretary (right) and Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, showing the press computers recovered in Europe en route to Russia.

Seized Russian-bound computers on show

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration has its concern about illegal Soviet acquisition of Western military technoligy by displaying pieces of an advanced computer system seized just before it was to be smuggled into Soviet Union.

The Administration has been urging Congress to tighten federal controls over the export of high technology to the Soviet Union and other governments it considers unfriendly.

It is also drawing with its nato allies and Japan a stricter list of strategic goods that must be exported to the Warsaw pact countries.

Mr Donald Regan, the treasury Secretary, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, held a joint press conference to show their concern this week. They used a room crowded with large pieces of sophiscated equipment they said represented about half of the shipment recently stopped by the West Germans in Hamburg.

Mr Regan said the interception of the equipment on November9 foiled what could have been a Soviet coup. If the powerful system, known as the Vax 782, and worth $1.5 (£1m) had reached the Soviet Union it would have increased the accuracy of Soviet weapons.

Another shipment of highly sophisticated American-made computer, also believed to be bound for the Soviet Union, was seized in late November at the Swedish southern port of Helsingborg. US and Swedish officials are now negotiating for the return of the consignment which is believed to be part of the same computer system

Foreign Office censured by MPs

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Foreign Office was censured by the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts yesterday for its failure to pursue economy measures in managing its £200m diplomatic estate.

The all-party committee, which has a Conservative majority, began by criticizing the Foreign Office for taking almost three years to issue new standards for residential accommodation overseas.

It was explained to the MPs that running the overseas estate was a matter of "extraordinary complexity" and that, though it was recognized diplomats should be housed as efficiently and inexpensively as possible, staff had to have "the tools for the jobs".

But the committee commented: "We were surprised to learn that, in promulgating the new standards, FCO did not call for specific action to reallocate or dispose of over-scale property.

"We would have expected to see much more emphasis on the need for economy and for general adherence to the standards, and instructions to deal quickly with any property which was seriously over-scale."

The report specifically cited over-scale residences in Nairobi, Vienna and Singapore, where the Foreign Office had shown reluctance to economize.

Action has been agreed on Nairobi and Vienna, but ministers have decided that Eden House should be retained in Singapore, though the house is 69 per cent over-scale and was last year valued at £2.75m.

The MPs said that the Foreign Office gave too much emphasis to prestige or tradition. "We question the need to maintain in the 1980s a lavish style of personal accommodation which appears to have outlived its time. We therefore urge FCO to adopt a radical change in attitude, giving a new and positive emphasis to considerations of cost effectiveness."

The Foreign Office had tended to resist the agency's economy plans "for questionable reasons," and officials had shown little sign of "enthusiasm or urgency in pursuing the possibilities of greater economy and efficiency".

*Fifth Report from the Committee of Public Accounts, Session 1983-84: **Economy Measures in the Civil, Defence and Overseas Estates, Stationery Office, £6.***

The Fat One has £239m for Spain's gamblers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Father Christmas looks like Scrooge alongside Spain's most beloved Yuletide character, *El Gordo*. (The Fat One).

That is what Spaniards call their annual Christmas draw, still the world's biggest lottery despite the slipping value of the peseta. The total prize money this year, 53.1 billion pesetas (£239m), is probably greater than the entire annual state budget of some Third World countries.

With 46 top prizes of 250m pesetas (more than £1m) each, and hundreds of thousands of other prizes ranging from hefty to modest, *El Gordo* is a bet that gambling Spaniards cannot pass up. At the very least, they know that the smallest prize, amounting to a refund of the cost of the ticket, will be paid to one out of every 10.

Tomorrow morning, just as they have done for well over a century, the boys of St Ildefonso's school in Madrid, togged out in their best blue serge, will hold all Spain spellbound as they strike up their monotonous tune to welcome The Fat One.

The boys stand on a stage flanked by two huge wire cages full of tiny wooden balls. The balls in one cage are painted with numbers, all the numbers on the tickets. Each ball in the other cage is painted with a prize amount. As each pair is drawn, one boy sings out the lucky number and another sings the prize, to a simpletune reminiscent of Gregorian chant.

Such a payoff would not be possible unless Spaniards spent a lot on *El Gordo*, and they do. The total this year is expected to reach 75.9 billion pesetas or about £10 for every man, woman and child.

The cost of full ticket, with potential winnings of up to 250m pesetas, is 25,000 pesetas, but few Spaniards hold a whole ticket. Most buy shares in one or more numbers. The most common share is one-tenth, known as a *decimo*.

Jodie Foster: Fined

Drugs found in actress's case

Boston (AFP) – Jodie Foster, aged 20, the American actress, was briefly detained and fined after $100 (£70) worth of cocaine was found in her luggage when she arrived at Boston airport from Paris. The drug was discovered during a routine customs inspection on Monday. Miss Foster is a student at Yale.

Andropov health doubts

Next week crucial for ailing leader

From Richard Owen, Moscow

With President Andropov still absent from public view, speculation is growing that he may break all precedents by not appearing at next week's crucial Central Committee and Supreme Soviet (Parliament) sessions.

Mr Andropov, who suffers from kidney and heart ailments, has not been seen since the middle of August, and did not attend the annual parade on Red Square on November 7. "A Soviet leader can only afford so many unprecedented absences before his political credibility is called into question", one diplomatic observer said.

The Soviet leadership is nominally collective but in practice dominated by one man, who sets the tone for the regime and largely determines policy. As General Secretary of the party, Mr Andropov is obliged to guide the Politburo and Central Committee, from which he derives his power. As head of state he would normally preside at the Supreme Soviet sessions which follow the biannual party meetings.

It was reported recently that Mr Andropov had returned to work on a part-time basis, though observers are divided over whether he is at his desk in the Kremlin or at a special Politburo sanatorium just outside Moscow.

Informed sources said the Soviet leader spent most of his time at the sanatorium, and was convalescing after kidney surgery. He is said to have difficulty moving about. The United States magazine *Newsweek* reported this week that Mr Andropov had less than two years to live, but no other source has confirmed this.

There have been persistent rumours Mr Andropov is about to make his promised reappearance.

There were reports that he would be shown awarding medals to the cosmonauts who returned from the Salyut 7 space station last month, but in the end the awards were merely announced in the press. Soviet leaders normally attend the ceremony.

There have been other suitable occasions, including the visit to Moscow last week by the Foreign Minister of Finland, but none has been used.

In a further sign of Mr Andropov's disability, diplomats said Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, had sought a meeting with the Soviet leader in late December to discuss his world peace initiative, but had been told Mr Andropov was unable to receive him.

The almost feverish expectations of Mr Andropov's reemergence after nearly six months subsided this week, suggesting that Kremlin advisers – including Politburo doctors – had decided that Mr Andropov's energies should be conserved for Monday's Central Committee plenum. Now, however, even that seems to be in doubt.

The uncertainty has led to a loss of political momentum, with bewildered lower-level officials looking for guidance and higher-level officials manoeuvring for the next succession.

The Communist Party is now in the middle of important elections to local offices which Mr Andropov had hoped to use, as a mini-purge. An attack in *Pravda* last week on party incompetence in Moldavia suggests that Mr Andropov is seeking to push the purge through from his sick bed.

There are also to be elections to the Supreme Soviet next March. Although the elections are a formality, since no choice of candidates is offered, the occasion could be used to ease out ministers from the Brezhnev era.

Hungarian minister to meet Kohl

Bonn (Reuter) – The Hungarian Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Varkonyi, will meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl here today for the first high-level encounter between a Nato and Warsaw Pact country since Moscow abandoned the Geneva missile talks last month.

Officials said Bonn would urge Hungary to use its influence in the seven-nation Pact to try to break the deadlock between Moscow and Washington.

Chancellor Kohl has written to all Warsaw Pact leaders, the Bonn Government announced yesterday. The note was thought by observers to be part of his efforts to revive arms control talks.

Turkey gets a warning on missiles

Moscow (Reuter) – The Soviet Army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* yesterday warned Turkey against strengthening its military links with the United States and said that Moscow would not accept American nuclear missiles on Turkish territory.

The newspaper said that Ankara was ignoring past agreements with Moscow which pledged both sides to avoid the use or threat of force.

Leading Turkish politicians were now calling for an American "nuclear umbrella" over their territory and trying to condition the public to the idea of deploying weapons there, the newspaper said.

It added that this would be a breach of the treaties and that Moscow would retaliate.

It also reminded Ankara that Moscow had forced the removal of United States Jupiter missiles deployed in Turkey in 1959 within nine months of their arrival.

May inquiry reopened

Rome (AP) – A magistrate has reopened an investigation into the disappearance of Mrs Jeanette May, a Briton, and her Italian companion, Signora Gabriella Guerin, after reports they may still be alive, a weekly magazine has reported.

The magazine *La Domenica del Corriere* said that Signor Alessandro Jacoboni, the investigating magistrate of Camerino, had ordered remains believed to be those of Signora Guerin to be exhumed for tests of identity.

The magistrate would neither confirm nor deny the report, but court sources confirmed that the case had been reopened.

Two skeletons were discovered in January 1982 in an isolated forest in central Italy 14 months after Mrs May and her companion vanished during a blizzard. The magazine did not explain why officials think the two women may still be alive.

Madrid disco owners moved to jail

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

A magistrate yesterday ordered that the four co-proprietors and manager of the Madrid discothèque, where 80 people died in a weekend fire, be transferred to Carabanchel jail. The five have been held without charge in police custody since Saturday.

Madrid's College of Architects joined the public outcry, alleging yesterday that the majority of discothèques in the capital had not been checked under the 1982 revised safety regulations.

The architects also criticized the new regulations and said they lacked precise technical specifications. Months before the tragedy, the architects said, they told Industry Ministry inspectors that they were worried about conditions in the discothèques.

Madrid City Council officials have already admitted the 1982 regulations do not lay down anything about the frequency of safety checks.

Law Report December 21 1983

Buyers liable for repudiation

Berger & Co v Gill & Duffus SA

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman

[Speeches delivered December 15]

Buyers who repudiated a contract of sale by sample by wrongfully rejecting valid shipping documents on their presentation accompanied by a valid certificate of quality in respect of only part of the contract goods, could not avoid liability for the repudiation by seeking to prove that that part of the contract goods in respect of which a certificate of quality had not been obtained, were nonconform with their description in a manner which went also to quality and without proving that the sellers could not have obtained a valid certificate of quality for those goods.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the sellers, Berger & Co Inc from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Robert Goff dissenting) on January 27, 1983, who allowed an appeal by the buyers, Gill & Duffus SA, from a decision of Mr Justice Lloyd on July 28, 1981.

Mr Bernard Rix, QC, and Miss Elizabeth Birch for the sellers; Mr David Johnson, QC, and Mr Peregrin Simon for the buyers.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the subject matter of the appeal was a single contract dated December 22, 1976 for the sale of 500 tonnes of "Argentine Bolita Beans – 1974 Crop" as per sample, cif Le Havre, on the terms of GAFTA 41 subject to certain variations, of which the most material was a provision that a certificate of quality at port of discharge given by the General Superintendence Co Ltd, Paris (GSC) should be final.

On February 3, 1977 the full 500 tonnes was shipped on the Salland from Costa Rica and arrived at Le Havre on March 21, but only 445 tonnes of the consignment were discharged. The balance was overcarried to Rotterdam and brought back to Le Havre on April 2.

Shipping documents which covered the whole contract quantity of 500 tonnes were presented at the buyer's bank as provided for in the contract clause relating to payment, on March 22, 1977. The buyers rejected the documents and refused to pay against presentation on the ground that they did not include the GSC certificate as to quality.

A GSC certificate under the certification clause was incapable of being included among shipping documents which a seller was required to tender to his buyer in return for payment of the price under a contract of sale in ordinary cif terms.

The sellers did not elect to treat the buyers' refusal to pay upon presentation of documents as a wrongful repudiation of the contract but instead set about obtaining a GSC certificate in relation to the 445 tonnes that had been discharged. Shipping documents were re-presented to the buyers together with that certificate on March 30, but were again rejected.

The sellers then did treat that refusal as a wrongful repudiation of the contract and elected to treat the contract as rescinded. That had the consequence in law that all primary obligations of the parties under the contract which had not yet been performed were terminated.

That termination did not prejudice the right of the party so electing to claim damages from the party in repudiatory breach for any loss sustained in consequence on the non-performance by the latter of his primary obligations under the contract future as well as past.

When the sellers elected to treat the contract as repudiated on April 1, they ceased to be under any contractual obligation to deliver up the contract goods. The buyers on the other hand became liable to the sellers in damages for breach of contract.

Prima facie the measure of such damages would be the difference between the contract price of the 500 tonnes and the price obtainable for the documents representing the goods at date of the acceptance of the repudiation.

Words used in a contract of sale for goods which were not "specific goods" as defined in section 62 of the Sale of Goods Act 1893, often included words which described a characteristic as to quality or condition that they possessed which distinguished them from other goods of the same general kind.

The Court of Appeal was correct in its conclusion in *Toepfar v Continental Grain Co* ([1974] 1 Lloyd's Rep 11), that where the description of the goods included a statement as to their quality and provided that a certificate as to quality was to be final, the certificate was final as to the correspondence of the goods with the description of quality in the contract notwithstanding that the certificate was proved to have been inaccurate.

The reason why it was consistent with section 13 of the 1893 Act was that while "description" itself was an ordinary English word, the Act contained no definition of what it meant when it referred to a sale "by description". One had to look to the contract as a whole to identify the kind of goods that the seller was agreeing to sell and the buyer to buy.

Where the sale was "by sample as well as by description" characteristics of the goods which would be apparent on reasonable examination of the sample were unlikely to have been intended by the parties to form part of the "description" by which the goods were sold, even though such characteristics were mentioned in references in the contract to the goods that were its subject matter.

When a buyer under a cif contract accepted shipping documents which transferred the property in the goods to him, the property in the goods he obtained were subject to the condition subsequent that it would revest in the seller if upon examination the buyer found them to be not in accordance with the contract in some respect which would entitle him to reject them and did in fact reject them.

That was because the cif contract remained on foot, and being a contract of the sale of goods, the buyer had a right under section 34 of the 1893 Act to reject the goods for non-conformity with the contract and retained that right until he had had a reasonable opportunity to examine the goods after delivery.

Given the absence of any suggestion of difference in quality between the 55 tonnes and the 445 that the GSC had certified as equal to the sample, the buyers lacked the finding of fact essential to their defence in part to the seller's claim in damages that on a balance of probabilities GSC would not have issued a similar certificate in respect of the 55 tonnes.

Lord Keith, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon and Lord Templeman agreed.

Solicitors: Middleton Potts & Co; Richards Butler & Co.

European Law Report — Court of Justice of the European Communities

Limits of promotions within EEC law

Apple and Pear Development Council v K. J. Lewis Ltd

Case 222/82

Before: Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, President, and Judges T. Koopmans, K. Bahlmann, P. Pescatore, Lord Mackenzie Stuart, A. O'Keeffe, G. Bosco, O. Due and U. Everling

Advocate General: Mme S. Rozes

[Judgment delivered December 13]

The Apple and Pear Development Council was established in 1966 by statutory instrument under the Industrial Organization and Development Act 1947. Its functions include the promotion of scientific research, development of new materials, improvement in working methods and the marketing of products. Its activities are financed by a charge on growers.

The council commenced proceedings in the Tunbridge Wells County Court to recover from three growers the charge due for the year 1980-81.

The defendants counterclaimed for restitution of the sums paid since 1978, alleging that the continuation of the council was contrary to Community law. The county court made a reference under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In its judgment the court held:

Activities relating to scientific or technical research, the compilation of statistics, the dissemination among growers of the information obtained and purely advisory functions were not of such a character as to hinder intra-Community trade or the functioning of the common organization of the markets.

On the other hand, the description of the other functions entrusted to the council did not exclude the possibility that they might be exercised in a manner capable of hindering either intra-Community trade or the common organization of the markets.

Publicity and promotional activities might be prohibited by article 30 of the Treaty if the campaign was supported by public authorities. The council, which was set up by the Government of a member state and financed by a charge on growers, could not under Community law enjoy the same freedom as regards methods of advertising as that enjoyed by producers themselves or producers' associations of a voluntary character.

It was under a duty not to engage in any advertising intended to discourage the purchase of products of other member states or to disparage those products in the eyes of consumers. Nor must it advise consumers to purchase domestic products solely by reason of their national origin.

On the other hand, article 30 did not prevent such a body from drawing attention, in its publicity, to the specific qualities of fruit grown in the member state in question or from organizing campaigns to promote the sale of certain varieties, mentioning their particular properties, even if those varieties were typical of national production.

Unless the rules on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables provided otherwise, member states and bodies such as the council were prevented from imposing unilateral provisions concerning the quality of the fruit marketed by growers. The Community rules did not prevent competition regarding the quality of the produce between growers in a member state or between those growers and importers. Nor did they prevent growers from concerning themselves with the reputation of national produce or a body such as the council from giving advice to growers in the form of simple recommendations concerning the quality and presentation of the fruit marketed. But any attempt by such a body to impose compliance with those recommendations by applyng any sort of penalties or by using the authority vested in it by its constitution to bring pressure to bear on growers or on traders would be unlawful.

The obligation to become a member of a body such as the council could not be regarded as incompatible with Community law unless the activities of the body were themselves contrary to it.

Charges such as those levied by the council, being measures of a fiscal nature or of equivalent effect, fell within the scope of articles 9 to 16 and 95 of the Treaty, not articles 30 to 34.

Since the charge in question did not apply to imported produce and only affected produce intended for export in the same way as produce sold on the home market, it did not raise any problem in relation to articles 9 to 16 and 95.

A charge imposed on agricultural producers was incompatible with the Community provisions relating to agricultural policy in so far as it had the effect, as a result of its influence on price formation or through a change in the structure of agricultural holdings, of impeding the functioning of the machinery provided under the common organization of the markets.

As a general rule, a charge of which the proceeds were essentially used for publicity measures which would otherwise have to be financed by producers themselves could not have such effects but the levying of such a charge as the one in question would be contrary to Community law to the extent to which it served to finance activities incompatible with Community law.

The fact that the council was created and maintained with the express approval of growers representing more than half the land planted and after consultation with organizations apparently representing a large number of persons carrying on business or employed in the industry did not affect the position.

Articles 30 and 34 of the Treaty conferred on individuals rights which they might enforce before national courts. The same direct effect applied in regard to the regulations on the common organization of the markets.

The interpretation of Community law given by the court under article 177 of the Treaty might and must be applied by the national court even to legal relationships arising and established before the judgment ruling on the request for interpretation, provided that in other respects the conditions, which enbled an action relating to the application of Community law to be brought before the courts having jurisdiction, were satisfied.

It followed that the provisions of Community law might be raised as a defence to a claim for payment of a charge incompatible with them and that they might also be raised as grounds for claiming restitution of such a charge, where it had been improperly levied.

Where a charge served to finance a body, some of whose activities were contrary to community law, it was for the national court to decide whether, in the light of the importance of the activities in question, that rendered the charge unlawful and must entail total or partial exemption. It was also for the national court to determine, according to national law, whether and to what extent such a charge had to be refunded and whether and to what extent entitlement to a refund was offset by the advantages accruing directly to the person concerned as a result of the activities of the body.

Finally, as regards products subject to the common organization of the agricultural markets at the time of the United Kingdom's accession to the Community, the Treaty provisions prohibiting measures having an effect equivalent to quantitative restrictions became applicable in the United Kingdom on February 1, 1973, in accordance with article 60(1) of the act of accession.

Whether rum importation quota is lawful

Commission v Council

Case 218/82

Before: Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, President, and Judges T. Koopmans, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot, P. Pescatore, Lord Mackenzie Stuart, A. O'Keeffe, G. Bosco, O. Due, U. Everling and C. Kakouris

Advocate General: Mme S. Rozès

[Judgment delivered December 13]

Article 2(1) of the second ACP–EEC Convention (OJ No L 347/1 of December 22, 1980) stated that products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states would be imported into the Community free of customs duties and charges having equivalent effect.

Article 1 of Protocol No 5 provided that, until the entry into force of a common organization of the market in spirits, rum originating in the ACP states would be imported duty-free into the Community under conditions such as to permit the development of traditional trade flows between the ACP states and the Community and between the member states. The object was to develop traditional trade flows while limiting the amount of rum which could be imported into the Community duty-free.

Article 2 of the protocol derogated from article 2(1) of the convention, providing that the Community would fix annually the quantities of rum which might be imported duty-free.

Council regulation No 1699/82 (OJ No L 189/1 of July 1, 1982) fixed the duty-free rum quota for the year 1982-1983 and divided it into two instalments, one for the United Kingdom and the other for the remaining member states. The latter was then allocated between those member states.

Article 4(2) of the regulation provided that the United Kingdon would take the steps necessary to ensure that the quantities imported duty-free from the ACP states were restricted to those meeting its domestic consumption requirement.

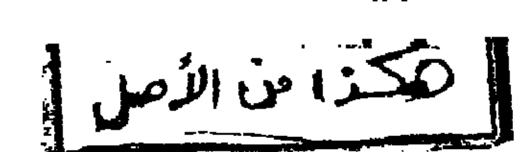
The Commission sought the annulment of article 4(2) on the ground that it infringed articles 30 and 34 of the EEC Treaty by preventing the United Kingdom from exporting to other member states rum imported duty-free from the ACP states. The Commission did not challenge the practice of dividing the total ACP quota between the member states.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held that, if article 4(2) prohibited the export of rum from the United Kingdom to other member states, it would breach the Treaty provisions relating to the free movement of goods: the division of a tariff quota into national quotas might, in certain circumstances, be compatible with the Treaty subject to the express condition that it did not hinder the free movement of the goods covered by the quota after they had been admitted to free circulation in the territory of a member state.

The question was whether that interpretation of article 4(2) was correct. The court held that, where secondary legislation was ambiguous, preference was to be given to the interpretation which rendered the measure compatible with the Treaty rather than to that which would lead it to be incompatible.

The court concluded that article 4(2) did not require the United Kingdom to limit exports to other member states of rum originating in ACP states but only to ensure that those quantities imported by it were limited to its domestic consumption requirements.

That interpretation was consistent with the English version, without being irreconcilable with the other language versions, and corresponded to the objective of Protocol No 5. In consequence, the court held article 4(2) of the regulation to be compatible with the Treaty and dismissed the action.



هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Dance in France

Russian rock lures the Parisians

If French ballet dancers can put on an evening of American modern dance, one ought not to be surprised at a troupe of Russian actors arriving in Paris with a rock opera. Versatility is the name of the game. I was able to catch both shows within 24 hours, with an early-evening programme by a visiting American company thrown in for good measure.

I am told that a telerecording of the Russian production looked dull on Channel 4; if so, it cannot have done justice to the effect on stage at L'Espace Pierre Cardin. Acting and dancing on steep translucent ramps, with a marvellously simple decor of a ship's prow, a few planks and ropes, imaginatively lit, the Komsomol troupe from Moscow conjure up a real-life adventure of 1806 when Count Rezanov sailed to California and tried to establish a trade and political link between Russia and the then Spanish possession.

Rezanov's ship was the Avos – a Russian word meaning a hope that could come true: but it did not. He met, loved and seduced the daughter of the govenor of San Francisco, returned home for permission to marry her, and died. She waited for him 35 years, then entered a convent. Their night of love is shown in what is virtually a *pas de deux* arranged by the Bolshoi star Vladimir Vassiliev, who also staged a trained dancers.

The score of *Avos*, by Alexis Ribnikov, ranges from ancient church music through haunting ballads for the ship's officers to some first-rate rock by a Moscow group called Rock Atelier. Nicolai Karachentsev, as Rezanov, needs the microphone to cope with his limited amount of singing, but justifies his casting by the power and nuance of his acting; everyone else can put over the numbers as effectively as the lines – which, incidentally, are mostly spoken just like an operatic ensemble, everyone facing front but coming in with perfect timing.

The book is by Andrei Woznessenski, based on his long poem of the same title, and the production is directed by Marc Zakharov. Although I know scarcely a dozen words of Russian, I was held and thrilled throughout. Which is more than I can say of the programme of contemporary works by the Ballet de l'Opéra at the Opéra-Comique.

We all know what happens to best-laid plans, and Nureyev's intention of a triple bill by Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and William Forsythe was knocked agley first when Taylor's other commitments necessitated postponing his *Rite of Spring* until next June, then when Forsythe developed food poisoning and his première had to be put back a fortnight. All the same, Nureyev managed to put on a complete programme of modern American choreography, and only one real dud among them.

That one is *Marée de morte eau*, a pretentiously silly title for a pretentiously silly work by Tim Wengerd, formerly a dancer with Martha Graham. Having assembled a cast led by one of the most expressive French ballerinas, Wilfride Piollet, and four of the most gifted younger dancers, he has not much more to offer them than poses, groupings and walking around in costumes that suggested an alternative title: "I dreamed I was on stage in my Maidenform bra". Maybe they should have gone for sponsorship.

Infinitely more worthwhile, and for me the evening's highlight, was Karole Armitage's *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*, to Rhys Chatham's heavy rock score. I wrote about it a few months ago when the Opera Ballet's experimental group gave it at Théâtre de la Ville: it proved equally effective transferred from the open stage there to the more conventional one at the Opéra-Comique.



Effective transfer: *Massacre sur MacDougal Street*

Dancers of the experimental group also undertook the Cunningham première: *Inlets II*, a revised version of a work the choreographer's own company gave at Sadler's Wells on one of their London visits. John Cage's score, with sounds of water slopping or trickling around, caused quite a few intermission jokes about the need to "*faire pipi*", but the dancers tackled the complex assignment, with its many demanding balances and slowly evolving movements, conscientiously, although unfortunately without quite the understanding of weight and emphasis that could convert it from an exercise to a lively experience.

Nobody could accuse Louis Falco's *Black and Blue* of lacking liveliness. Set to songs by Harry Nilsson and Randy Newman, it is a choreographic joke about boxing. Jean Guizerix brings a wary but massive power to the old champion, Bull Washington; Charles Jude is his hopeful young rival, Kid Lefty; and there are five others engaged in minor bouts – three of them played by a group of young women as delightful as they are talented: Florence Clerc, Marie-Claude Pietragalla and Marie-Josee Redont.

Two of the younger male soloists, Frédéric Olivieri and Wilfrid Romoli, also have a round that suggests they have the quality to become champions themselves, and (for no very good reason except a casual line in one of the songs) there is a chorus line of spacemen, who are fine when they simply progress across the back, dimly seen through gauze, but Falco runs out of ideas for them when they actually invade the stage towards the end.

To be honest, Falco gets a bit short of ideas generally through trying to go 10 rounds, and like many of his works it ends inconclusively, but it is fun most of the time and the dancers (direct from the opulent *Raymonda* up the Boulevard des Italiens) let their hair down engangingly.

The spirit they bring to Falco's choreography causes me to wonder what they might make of Lucinda Childs's. She and her company, at the Théâtre de la Ville, gave three works in a 75-minute programme without intermission. What energy!

The oldest work of the evening, *Dance I* from 1979, shows her style at its purest: based, like the Philip Glass score, on repetition with tiny variations, it has tremendous pace and constantly changing detail that demands, and rewards, close attention as the eight dancers whizz back and forwards across the stage in pairs.

Two later pieces show the same principles being pulled sideways into more elaborate floor patterns and greater variety of pace. The earlier work has a bigger impact but Childs has obviously found a way forward that does not distort the original concept. The way she commands both form and individuality ought to be an inspiration to modern British choreographers, too many of whom seem to flounder about without either. It is frustrating that, when she brings her company to Paris, nobody can add a side trip to London.

John Percival

Television

Gripping snapshot

With 1984 so close, the literary CID, always alert for a significant date and unconcerned about overtime, is already conspicuously reinvestigating George Orwell. His case is unlikely to be closed. Exposition is indeed so abundant that generations who have not read him might conclude that there is no necessity to do so.

Should that be the case, last night's BBC1 drama-documentary, **Orwell on Jura – the Crystal Spirit**, may have caused them to think again, spurring them to appraise for themselves this odd, lonely chap with the obsession with truth, the admirable scepticism and the deep suspicion of power. BBC Scotland struck tellingly here while other irons are still heating. It will be interesting to see if anthing – and there will be much more – comes up to the excellent snapshot they presented.

What they did was to focus on the man, to re-enact the writing of *Nineteen Eighty Four* while Orwell was painfully descending his last slope, accelerating that descent with his own grim determination to hone it to his own, grudgingly-yielded satisfaction. It was beautifully shot on the island where he wrote it, in the house where he did so. Alan Plater had the assistance of Orwell's biographer, Professor Bernard Crick, and various people who remembered Orwell's last stand in Jura, for his script.

He made a brilliant job of it, the dialogue spare, mordant, intuitive and sadly humorous. Ronald Pickup was Orwell, established in the part before he had spoken a word by a back shot showing the long, lean, overcoated figure with the unmistakeable hair-cut. Nothing he did subsequently took away from the conviction that this was Orwell.

The supporting cast was equal to his virtuoso performance. Fiona Walker as his sister Avril and David Swift as his artist friend were particularly good. Plater's script enabled them to present a picture of solid relationships based on affection but tempered by the realization that the object of it was an ornery cove.

"I read all your damn books", Avril tells him when he returns from hospital; the brief sister-brother dialogue, with irony masking sentiment, on their relative literary merit was one of many memorable moments. The cast, the producer Norman McCandlish, the director John Glenister and Mr Plater can go into 1984 with well-patted backs.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Aladdin
Shaftesbury

As you would expect from a line-up including Tommy Trinder, Roy Kinnear, Lynsey de Paul, and Derek Griffiths, story-telling is not a priority in the Shaftesbury panto. Living up to its name, the Theatre of Comedy company is out mainly to raise a laugh by doing its own thing.

Gales of mirth and non-stop audience contact are the target, and Tudor Davies's production is arranged as a series of spot routines for everyone in sight. Mr Kinnear appears with David Janson as a helmet-bashing Peking cop. A mystified Mr Trinder periodically wanders on with the one line "They seek him here . . ." Everything stops reverentially when Miss de Paul sings; it is fair to add that she has a nice line in Knightsbridge *chinoiserie*. And Mr Griffiths tops the bill as a King Rat Abanazer, orchestrating his own boos and disdainfully mingling among the customers to tell them that he has poisoned their ice cream and deflated their tyres.

But, if anything sums up the show, it is Mr Davies's Dame, a pouting rosebud-lipped harridan with a honking cleavage, very quick on his feet and no less nippy in ripping off the hoariest patter in the Christmas vault. "I must take down your particulars." "One is without."

You name it, and it crops up somewhere in the uncredited book.

Meanwhile, we have to roar a greeting to every entrance of Jill Gascoine's cheeky cockney Aladdin, and Richard O'Sullivan's Wishee Washee; warn the cast of lurking gorillas, and hurl insults at each other. As there is also a black theatre number to get through, plus tinselled excursions into revved-up Borodin, there is not much time to spare for any silly old story about a magic lamp.

This is a pity, as the book contains two promising new twists. Abanazar first casts a spell to save Aladdin from an imperial beheading; and subsequently transforms Wishee Washee into the Slave of the Lamp. Either of these ideas could have been interestingly followed up. But, come the cave scene, and Aladdin has forgotten any reason for being grateful to his benefactor. And although Mr O'Sullivan appears to well-mortified advantage in a gold-lamé track suit with a nodding cobra headpiece, his transformation has no influence on events. I have never seen the final rescue scene pass off with so little attempt at suspense.

The show is played against a hideous set of cutouts depicting the Peking supermarket or the Twankey laundry in spidery line drawings (by Alan Miller Bunford) and generally lit by James Baird in bilious yellow.

Irving Wardle

Gulliver's Travels
Gate at Latchmere

For all its frilly-shirted mariners clinging to the main mast, or choreographed Houyhnhnms in body stockings, Lou Stein's adaptation of Swift is not much more than a director's exercise. It adds little (and is not really convincing) to stage Lilliput or Brobdingnag by having actors look upwards or downwards at imaginary and unstageable figures; the Laputans' experiments gain little by showing a plastic tube shoved up a toy dog's behind, and the little bits of dramaturgy necessary to cover awkward joins in the plot sound as though they were written on the back of an envelope.

Of course, Swift's satire and his fierce indignation (his own famous words) at mankind's follies and cruelties become contemporary afresh in every decade. In London now, who needs a commentator for Gulliver's commendation of gunpowder as a civilized device for blowing people up, for the horse kingdom's sexual equality in education or indeed for Laputa's planning blight through the unfinished schemes of "projection"?

But all this is in the book, available to read and full of a special character, harshly vindictive and whimsical by turns, that owes nothing to a director's props basket or performers like Joanna Myers, regarding the courtiers in these curious kingdoms only as a heaven-sent chance for mugging and grimacing.

As the Gullivers themselves (there are two), the elegantly grizzled and bespectacled John Castle, drily interpreting a multiplicity of nonsense languages from a corner of the stage, sees his younger self find himself successively a giant, a midget, a dumbo among intellectual nutters and a human inferior graciously received by horses.

The frank and curly Michael Fenton-Stevens dances like a circus freak for the Brobdingnagians and lends the Lilliputians a massive ear, but cannot make his Redriff home base any more real than it is in the book.

Seeing Lilliput represented by a cushion sewn with green bobbles and indulgently surveyed by the young Gulliver, I wished that the theatre would allow a few fictional works to live untouched. Not much hope in view of the Balzac, Defoe, Charlotte Brontë, Laurie Lee and Dostoyevsky adaptations in recent months. Who is next?

Anthony Masters

Concert

Accent on Schubert

Nash Ensemble
St John's/Radio 3

Christmas relaxation in what is proving a distinguished series of BBC lunchtime concerts was provided by the Nash Ensemble in Schubert's Octet, as unsuperficial a piece of divertimento-type music as has ever been written. Now that Beethoven's Septet is quite justifiably rarely played, we are less aware of the strong tradition of early nineteenth century "broken consort" pieces to which many composers, notably Hummel, contributed many works.

It would have been a callous heart that was not touched again by the generous warmth and lilting rhythms of the Nash's performance, especially in its ebullient but always lyrical finale, with smiling, trilling sequences. There were some outstanding contributions from the clarinet of Michael Collins in particular, and the way in which bassoon and horn took up the agile theme of the first movement showed a sense of fine interplay and responsiveness in the group.

One small aspect worried me. In an interesting essay published a year ago, Arnold Feil showed how meticulous was Schubert's use of accents in the Scherzo of this work: he does not mark thumps on every barline, as the Nash naturally played it, but two thumps followed by two unaccented bars – and, as Feil pointed out, the confusion between decrescendo marks and accent marks in the notation is considerable, and was not clarified here.

Listening to the whole work, the prominence and variety of Schubert's expressive use of accents was very striking. Those in the sinister introduction to the finale were played with a sharp, effective attack, but those in the opening Allegro too often turned into just a lunge. The instruments of the time far more naturally made a biting attack followed by a sudden decay: to try and recreate the complexity indicated by Schubert's markings might reveal more subtleties in the music

Nicholas Kenyon

● Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Lighthouse*, recently staged in Boston, is to be performed in Vienna by Studio K, a division of Wiener Kammeroper, opening on February 17. In June Studio K, which is dedicated to presenting contemporary works, will give the first stage production of *Lieder-Spiel* by the young Austrian composer Meinhard Rüdenauer.

● Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* will be given by a chamber group from Kent Opera at Strawberry Hill House on January 5 as the final event in a conference organized by the Heritage Education Trust to promote the use of historic houses for educational purposes. The performance will be repeated the following night for the Friends of Kent Opera.





Doris Soffel: a touch of panache

Opera

Linguistic limbo

Die Fledermaus
Covent Garden

The Royal Opera's *Fledermaus* dates from New Year's Eve, 1977. The present revival for much of its very considerable length gives the strong impression that it too was cast, and probably rehearsed, at round about that date. The production creaks through Julia Trevelyan Oman's dowdy sets – her least successful foray into opera – occasionally flexing an arthritic limb and pointing it in the direction of Strauss's Vienna. But that city remains dispiritingly out of reach: this *Fledermaus* stays exactly where it should not be, in some linguistic limbo, where everyone uses whatever tongue is convenient.

But it is Christmas. So the credits, which mostly concern the newcomers, should be listed first. There is, thank goodness, now a mezzo Orlofsky and a very good one in the shape of Doris Soffel. Her princeling is an exotic figure, his bald pate gleaming like a billard ball, and with a general demeanour much like that assumed by Klaus Kinski during his forays into vampire-land. And Miss Soffel, who was disappointing in Bayreuth last summer, is right back in voice and leads the Act II ensembles with a panache sadly missing around her. Dennis O'Neill's Alfred is shaggy; roly-poly, italianate in speech and song, quite happy anywhere provided that he can roll out an aria or a bit of one. And there is back again Josef Meinrad's incomparable Frosch. He and Ingrid Baier, in the tiny part of Ida, bring the only authentic touch of Vienna.

In the pit is Placido Domingo, conducting for the first time at Covent Garden. He took the overture very slowly and scrupulously, favouring charm over the exuberance that sits alongside it in the score. The orchestra clearly like playing for him and Act II had a good deal of sparkle. But there is little doubt that the audience prefer Domingo on stage rather than below it: when Frosch sang the first couple of bars of "Celeste Aida" and Domingo from the pit answered with the second two there was the biggest cheer of the evening.

The singing from most of the principals remaining over from 1977 was generally dismal. Kiri Te Kanawa had an off night. She was heavily prompted throughout Act I and by the end of Act III appeared to have lost interest in the opera. Hildegarde Heichele is scarcely now a soubrette in voice or figure and she delivered a charmless Adele – and where do the Adeles of this world get without charm? Hermann Prey's Eisenstein is self-indulgent and, since he was in rasping tone for much of the first act, it is strange that he was allowed to pad out an already long Act II with Sandor Barinkay's "Als flotter Geist" from *Der Ziegeunerbaron*. Benjamin Luxon's Falke is an oddly pale and unvindictive figure.

There is a welcome reappearance from Michael Langdon as Governor Frank. And Merle Park and Wayne Eagling treat the *Frühlingsstimmen* pas de deux as pure pastiche. When they were in full flight across the stage Adele and Ida had to get out of the way hastily; it was not clear whether that was in the script or not. Elsewhere a great deal of tidying up needs to be done before BBC 2's live relay this New Year's Eve.

John Higgins

Zoë Dominic

Simon Cadell (right) bids farewell to *Hi-de-Hi!* in the run which opens at the Victoria Palace tomorrow. Interview by **Sheridan Morley**

One last fling at the old holiday camp

Even allowing for Danny La Rue in *Hello Dolly!* at the Prince of Wales, there cannot be much doubt that the campest Christmas show of the season is to be found at the Victoria Palace where Simon Cadell leads the television cast of *Hi-de-Hi!* in their first London stage season. Butlin nostalgists addicted to this everyday story of life and times behind the scenes in a 1950s holiday camp may however be saddened to learn that the current season marks the retirement of Jeffrey Fairbrother, the bemused academic who for the last four years and 32 television episodes has been attempting to make some sort of sense of redcoat existence: though the series goes into a fifth season on BBC1 next year, Mr Cadell has decided that the time has come to return to his legitimate theatrical roots and in no uncertain way – as soon as the Victoria Palace run ends in March, he goes to Birmingham to give his *Hamlet*.

This is not however the usual story of the clown with Shakespearian yearnings: Cadell comes from a classic-theatre family and started out in *As You Like It* long years before he ever got caught up with the camp comics. And though the last year of his life has been solidly taken up with Bournemouth and BBC seasons of *Hi-de-Hi!* (with the exception of one short break during which, to declare all possible interests, he was kind enough to play in a show of mine at the King's Head) there is not much doubt that he and Fairbrother have gone as far as they can together.

"He begins to bore me, and when a character does that then you must stop playing him as soon as you can. Not that I'd have wanted to miss the chance: these last four years of my life have been extremely happy, and there's no doubt that a hit comedy series on television moves you further forward in the theatre than a hit drama series. Look at what happened to Penelope Keith and Richard Briers and Paul Eddington: they all now lead the West End because of their television-comedy background. On the other hand there are dangers in staying too long with any one series: I live in dread of the night at Birmingham that I go out to do the first soliloquy and somebody calls out 'Hi-de-Hi' from the gallery. It's already happened to me once, on a tour of *Private Lives*, and it's the kind of thing you lie awake worrying about. That and being an 'all right' sort of Hamlet. I wouldn't mind being extremely bad, and I hope to be extremely good; what I couldn't bear was the idea of being all right in the role. It's not that sort of role, is it?"

Now 33, Cadell has already been in the business for 15 years; the son of a distinguished actors' agent, and the grandson of the actress Jean Cadell, he went to the Bristol Old Vic drama school in the 1967-69 generation of John Caird and Jeremy Irons and Tim Piggott-Smith:

"At first I was desperately shy of telling my father I wanted to go into the business, and when I did he told me I'd spend most of my life without work or money. But the only other possibility was Law, and I so hated the classics master at school that I never got as far as O-level Latin, so that ruled that out. But I did get to Bristol, and from there straight into the Rep as an assistant stage manager, which meant that in all I've only ever had four months out of work. I suppose it has been a rather charmed existence, though not in any way because my father is an agent. Indeed I've never used that connexion: I decided that if he started telling people I was the greatest thing since sliced bread managements would *know* he was lying, whereas if another agent started telling them that they might only *think* he was lying. But people always said I'd have to wait until 40 before I had any kind of success: I somehow never looked like a juvenile lead, and I always do very bad auditions."

Unusually for an actor of his generation and temperament, Cadell has lived almost entirely in the West End and regional theatre: his film career has thus far been limited to one non-appearance in a Peter Sellers comedy (his scene ended up on a cutting-room floor) and by the time the major companies did start showing some interest he was already deeply into *Hi-de-Hi!*

"But I've done some long West End runs, first with Ralph Richardson and Peggy Ashcroft in *Lloyd George Knew My Father* and then with John Clements in a Haymarket court drama, and I've been very lucky in working with that generation of players. I also have a brother and sister in the business: Patrick, who is David Lean's first assistant on the filming of *Passage to India*, and Selina, who has recently been at the Court in *Top Girls*, so it does seem still to be a family affair."

Cadell was also involved for a while with the Actors Company, living through some turbulent backstage times: "I joined late, three years into the compsny's existence, and I made a lot of enemies there by a complex manoeuvre whereby a minority of us managed to ensure that Edward Petherbridge got control of the next season. He was clearly the right man for that job, but a lot of people in the company didn't agree and some of them still don't speak to me much even five years later. But, that apart, the Actors Company was a remarkable experience: with an Arts Council grant of barely £50,000 we managed to tour two full-length plays (an Ayckbourn and a Shaw) plus two Pinter one-acts all around England and South America plus a London season for which there was no funding at all. Part of the deal was that everything had to fit into half-a-dozen crates, except the actors who were allowed to travel separately.

"But I've always had a lot of time for the commercial theatre, which sadly most of my generation of actors seem now to look down on: there's no reason, creitically or artistically, why Shaftesbury Avenue has to be a poor relation of the subsidized or regional companies. But, because twenty years ago commercial managements panicked at the escalating costs and began doing one-set six-character shows, people realized they could get that by staying at home with the television. Which is what they did. Now we have to get them back by spending some money and creating shows they can't get at home; and I don't just mean big old musicals.

"The first show I ever saw in the West End was the Peter Brook *Tempest* with John Gielgud, and where was that? Drury Lane. It doesn't have to be only for musicals. Look at the commercial-theatre success of *Amadeus* after it left the National. People will pay for an experience that television can't provide." And, judging by the advance booking at the Victoria Palace for *Hi-de-Hi!* also for one that television can provide.

SPECTRUM

Sweet silver song of the Lark

A sweet and gentle rural memoir is on the verge of becoming a moneyspinning exercise in merchandising. Shirley Lowe charts the making of *Lark Rise to Candleford* into a bandwagon for everything from dolls and cosmetics to bedspreads

"Oh, Laura! What a dunce you are," Miss Holmes, the village schoolmistress used to say to nine-year-old Flora Thompson when she couldn't do her sums. Miss Holmes was wrong. Flora, during the last years of her life, wrote three semi-autobiographical books about her Victorian childhood in rural Oxfordshire which, published in one volume, became *Lark Rise to Candleford*, the source and inspiration of a continuously expanding industry in nostalgia.

The hardback version of the book was published in 1939 and has been in print ever since. It went into paperback and sold 373,000 copies. Keith Dewhurst turned it into two plays for the National, it has been produced as a record, bought up for a film and planned as a television series. This month the lavishly illustrated, abridged version of Flora Thompson's classic, bound beguilingly in country-kerchief red and white cloth, notched up sales of 200,000 copies, making it a serious contender for the coveted *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* Christmas success spot.

Next year, *Lark Rise* rolls on to become a major merchandising project worth millions of pounds to stores and to the manufacturers of sheets and stationery and anything else that can be commercially glossed with the homespun charm and simple virtues of Mrs Thompson's lost world.

Flora Thompson was born in 1876 and lived with her parents and nine brothers and sisters (six of whom died in childhood) in the crowded end cottage of a hamlet called Juniper Hill in Oxfordshire – "A huddle of grey stone boxes with thatched or slated lids of the kind then thought good enough to house a farm labourer's family." In her books Juniper Hill is renamed Lark Rise, Flora calls herself Laura and Fringford, the nearby village where 14-year-old Laura is apprenticed to the postmistress, is known as Candleford Green. The area is now bounded by American Air Force bases and unpicturesque A roads.

Flora married John Thompson, a young post office clerk, when she was 24; because he despised her reading and writing as a waste of time, she wrote secret, sugared love stories and nature notes and poetry for women's magazines to pay for her children's upbringing. It was not until she was 61 that she began her masterpiece, a child's minutely observed view of the life of the poor in a remote Oxfordshire hamlet during the 1880s and 1890s, when the English countryside was on the brink of inevitable change.



The rise and rise of *Lark Rise*: Top, designer Nicholas Thirkell, who has ways of making you read. Above left, the marketing team and, right, the book itself. Photographs by Suresh Karadia.

She recorded a world of simple pleasures and pastimes: the children playing dancing games and peg-tops, the men working long hours in the fields for 10 shillings a week and enjoying a sing-song in the pub in the evenings, the women scubbing, cleaning, cooking, caring for animals and children and managing to make a meal out of a scraping of lard seasoned with sweet rosemary. "They knew the now-lost secret of being happy on little," recalled Mrs Thompson, before her death in 1947.

The *Morning Star*, reviewing the National Theatre's highly successful "promenade" version of *Lark Rise* at the Cottesloe – the audience had to step smartly back as the villagers swept towards them with scythes – saw it differently, as "the harsh reality of rural poverty and the close, supportive but sometimes claustrophobic atmosphere of village life."

Either way, Flora is in tune with our current collective nostalgia for rural simplicity, the romantic evocation in memoirs and reprints and television serials and supermarkets of a bygone era when Mrs Bridges knew her place, every bedroom was sprigged in Laura Ashley cotton, and jam pots were topped with red and white checked cambric. Her philosophy, embodying such back-stiffening maxims as "Pay your way and fear nobody" and "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well", is the very stuff of those Victorian values so admired by Mrs Thatcher.

Ever since Rowena Stott came upon her great-aunt Edith's diary and Michael Joseph published it in a faithful facsimile as *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, the publishing world has been searching for an equally satisfactory money-maker. It was published in 1977, has sold more than 2½ million copies in hardback, been translated into 13 different languages and appeared on the best-seller list in every country it has been printed, the most bought and least read bok of our time. Just over a year ago, fashion consultant Nigel French and his assistant, Pauline Deppé, bought the merchandising rights of *Country Diary* and, after just one full year of licensing and trading, Edith Holden's poppies and cornflowers are ablaze on more than three hundred items, from 32p postcards to £3,000 kitchens – even the Japanese have made her English country-garden flowers look wanly oriental on a tea service – and the 30 licensees have achieved £28m in retail sales.

Since a merchandising company normally takes between 5 and 10 per cent of the profit of everything sold and as the publisher and the author's estate (or whoever holds the rights to the book) stand to get around 50 per cent of that, you can see why publishing houses have been urging their editors to clear the attics and seek out granny's old flower paintings. Over at Century, a new house started 18 months ago by Anthony Cheetham and a small breakaway group from Macdonalds, they have been on the treasure hunt, too, and come up with six plastic bags full of a meticulously detailed diary of a Victorian journey up the Nile as well as some fine granny paintings from a grand house in Gloucestershire. Nevertheless, Anthony Cheetham thought it might be cleverer to approach the problem from the oposite direction: to get the best text possible and then illustrate it. And *Lark Rise* is, as he says, one of the best books ever written about childhood.

He passed the project over to Julian Shuckburgh of Shuckburgh Reynolds, one of the small packaging houses which specialize in producing the sort of lavishly-illustrated books publishers can no longer cope with themselves, without a large, skilled staff. Shuckburgh, brought up in Oxfordshire and bred on Flora Thompson, jumped at the idea: "I saw at once how we could do it." He cut the 200,000 or so words in the book back to 90,000, leaving most of Flora's childhood intact – "It scared me to death to do it" – and called in designer Nicholas Thirkell who, in turn, brought in picture researcher Jenny de Gex. She hunted out old photographs, a superb collection of Victorian paintings (15,000 portfolios at £9.95 each, containing a set of these paintings used as illustrations in the book, have already sold out) and, toughest of all, managed to gather flowers in mid-winter for the pressed flowers that decorate each page of the book.

While it's easy enough to see how Edith Holden's flora can be printed on sheets and cups and such, *Lark Rise to Candleford* is a book of words rather than a diary of pictures, so how do you cash in on the description of the lives of simple people before their traditions were swept away by the machine age? How do you commercialize an era?

The answer is in the presentation. "My brief was a difficult but exciting one", says Nicholas Thirkell. "It was 'create another *Country Diary* best-seller'. Usually a publisher says: "Oh, we can only afford two-colour and we'll be doing a small run to start with . . .' but here I was invited to go for broke."

He chose the tactile appeal of old-fashioned cloth for the cover, made the inside look a little like a cottager's scrapbook and, trying to think of an idea that symbolized the countryside and had a good graphic look for the bookshops, came up with the countryman's red and white polka-dot scarf. "I put the whole thing together in about six weeks and it was an absolute labour of love."

The finished book is a visual treat and, looking at it, one might almost say, as indeed the Lark Rise Merchandise Company brochure does: "What could be more natural than that this masterpiece should form the centrepiece of an extensive range of quality products?"

Debenhams will launch *Lark Rise* in July, giving them a two-month lead on other retailers. Manufacturers are queueing up for the privilege of recreating furniture in harmony with the stone and thatch of Mrs Thompson's humble cottage, of making wholesome smocks in simple calico and drill, of preparing herbal cosmetics in the correctly "natural" way and turning out cakes and preserves to look and taste as though the villagers of *Lark Rise had* been up *all night* baking them. Debenhams are excited by the project: in the second half of 1984 they estimate the promotion should generate between £3m and £4m of turnover.

The first *Lark Rise* products will be unveiled at the Birmingham Gifts Fair in February and plans are well advanced for the US market.

This is only the beginning of the *Lark Rise* nostalgia industry. Next year Anthony Cheetham will be bringing out a series of children's books – followed by a range of dolls – in which plucky little Laura surmounts all sorts of difficulties ("There were times when I thought, 'Oh, no, we can't do that,'" he says, "but then I decided we mustn't start treating *Lark Rise* with too much reverence. . .").

"Although she was a poor child I hope she can be made into a lovable doll," Desmond Preston says.

The money side is complicated. Oxford University Press, Flora Thompson's original publishers, who hold the rights (Century have bought the abridged illustrated rights only), get 50p of every book sold this year and a percentage increase next. They also get a small proportion of the merchandise profits (some of which they pass on to Flora Thompson's only surviving relative, a grand-daughter in Australia) and the right to veto anything of which they disapprove, from a biscuit tin to a bedspread. The Lark Rise Merchandise Company, who do all the work of exploiting the book, get 50 per cent of the merchandising royalties and Oxford University Press, Century, Shuckburgh Reynolds, and Nicholas Thirkell split the rest.

The same team of Cheetham, Shuckburgh, Thirkell and de Gex are now at work on a companion volume to *The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford*. It is *The Illustrated Cider with Rosie*, so anyone who doesn't care to emulate the humble world of a poor Victorian hamlet should wait for a year or so when a mood may be created for living rather more prosperously, like Laurie Lee did a century later, in his picturesque Cotswolds valley.

moreover... Miles Kington

How to be an oracle

One of the hazards of the festive season is finding yourself talking to someone you don't like about something you can't understand - Uncle Harry, for instance, or electronics, or the America's Cup. What you need is a short swift argument that will either stop the conversation stone dead, divert it entirely, or convince the other side you are a genius. Or a lunatic.

Here are a few handy notions to cut out and memorize, listed by subject.

The Greenham Common Peace Women

"Of course, Ronald Reagan thinks that all peace movements are a help to he enemy, so he has decided to discredit them. And the way he's done this is to send a peace-keeping force to the Lebanon which does nothing but bomb and shell people. See what I mean? Sooner or later people will start associating the word 'peace' with destruction and murder, as advertised by US Marines, and the Greenham Common Peace Women will be discredited. Maybe they will even be shelled. Unless they've already got their own weapons. Do you think the Greenham Common Peace Women are developing their own independent deterrent?"

The Booker Prize

"I heard it from a friend who knows one of the judges very well that this year, and every year for all I know, they *deliberately* chose the book they'd hated most. Yes, sounds odd, but apparently the idea is that they get fed up reading all those novels day in, day out, and they think it's very unfair that they should be the only ones to suffer. So what they do is pick out one novel that they found particularly tiresome and give it the prize, so that everyone else rushes out and buys it and goes through the same torture. Yes, apparently the one they really liked best never even got on the short list. Yes."

"The Day After"

"No, I didn't actually see the film. I don't like old horror movies. Nor do I have this American taste of horrifying yourself. The Americans absolutely adore being scared, you know - that's why Soviet Russia is such a godsend. But they also have Scares of the Year, a new flavour of scare, like herpes one year, AIDS the next, and the destruction of Kansas the next. Well, apparently the Russians have noticed this and they're now working on a new scare which is *really* going to scare the Americans. It's nuclear herpes. That's right. When the bomb finally goes off, it will give the Americans cold sores and ruin their sex lives."

Computers

"Apparently this guy in a Scottish university did a survey on his home computer. He wanted to find out whether anyone, anywhere in Britain, had found a really valid and useful function for his home computer. You know how you read these brochures called *The Million Things You Can Do With Your Home Computer*, but the only ones they ever mention are playing games and listing phone numbers? Well, this guy in Scotland was very worried that home computers would become the skateboards of the future – Every Home Has One In The Attic – so he was very anxious to discover the valid uses *now*, so that he could publicize them. So anyway he got all his data together and fed it into the computer, then asked it the vital question: 'Are there any useful functions for home computers?' The only example it could find was some nut in Scotland doing a survey on the uses of home computers."

The NGA

"Has it ever occurred to you that papers don't appear on big holidays, but that this doesn't give newspaper workers the day off, because they're in working on the next day's paper? The only day that newspaper workers get off is the day *before* a holiday. Well, they're fed up with this. They want a public holiday same as anyone. That's what this NGA trouble is all about, apparently. Yes. This chap told me. He'd read Harold Evans's book."

Bad taste and good timing

Liquid Sky, the latest international hit movie in the weirdness category, is about aliens from outer space who attach themselves to the bisexual world of New York's New Wave / fashion / heroin set. But the dominant performance is the baleful, glittering presence of New York as a physical structure, almost as a breathing electronic organism. Manhattan has never looked creepier, or more majestic. The film is also very funny, full of sick humour, explosions of obscenity, video fun and dazzling sleaze.

"I wanted some Brechtian quality of detachment," says Slava Tsukerman, the director, talking in a crowded pub in Waterloo, surrounded by green spiky hair and the constant crunch of black leather. His own hair is rather odd, long ringlets flowing out of the neck and over his mackintosh. He is given to mirth generally which is just as well since he is a Russian Jew, born in Moscow in 1939, who arrived in New York in 1976 with his Russian wife.

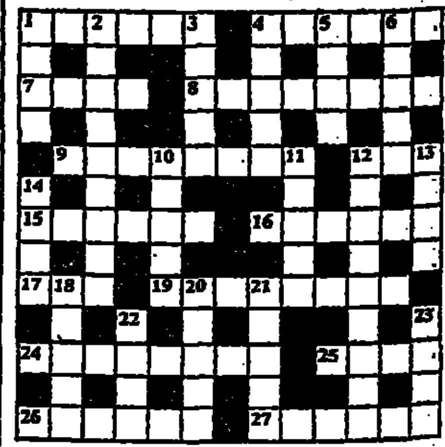
"These New Wave people I use are already extreme people who make a theatre of life," he says, "so when you film them it's like double theatre. My feeling is, the more ambiguous the film, the better – including the comedy." His wife is in it too. She plays a fashion writer with cold, lesbian-style chic.

So what is Russian humour like? "That's a good question. . . . The British tradition of dry black humour is very like Russian humour. But Russians get very sad. It's a national characteristic."

Liquid Sky, with its oriental sense of colour and display, is a celebration of his own freedom: "I find decadence very good for showing the problems of society." It is also his first feature in the West, and by some fluke the first feature ever made by a Russian emigré in the US. Eisenstein tried and failed. Where did the money come from?

"A real-estate developer in Pennsylvania. Surprisingly easy, it turns out. Like my leaving Russia – for the visa I wait *only* one and a half months. It was good timing, Nixon's visit or something. Of course the moment you apply for the visa you are outlawed so you *have* to get it or your life is finished. I leave Russia for Israel on April 15, 1973 – *Liquid Sky* opened in the United States on April 15, 1983. Another piece of synchronicity: my Russian film career began with 20-minute short, *I Believe in Spring*, which won a prize at the Montreal Festival in 1962, although the authorities didn't tell me; I eventually read it somewhere in a magazine; and my American career begins with the prize for orginality at Montreal 1982."

Did he train as a film-maker in Russia? "No, as a construction engineer." Then he registered as an amateur film-maker, an official position since you cannot buy raw film in Russian shops, and began making science documentaries. "It's better now than in Stalin's times. In the last year of his life, 1953, only



Slava Tsukerman

two films were made in Russia because Stalin was editing them himself and if he didn't like it you were killed. But comparing it to Khrushchev's revolution, which was that short spring I once believed in, 1957-61, it's worse now."

But surely Tarkovsky, for example, can work abroad now. "Yes, this is new. When I left it was impossible to imagine that any director with a Russian passport could make a film outside Russia. Now two have done it – Tarkovsky and Konchalovsky. But the most talented Russian film-maker, Paradjanov, who made *The Colour of Pomegranates* – he's only just out of prison."

Does he think we have a good picture of life in Russia? Mirth. "I had breakfast this morning with some young people and one of them said he thought the American press was just as controlled by the government as the Russian press. So the first thing I have to explain is that there is no press in Russia, just government clerks releasing certain things. But nobody believes propaganda any more in Russia, nobody believes in this perfect future society.

"But propaganda can still be powerful even when you don't believe it. For example, I expected very mush to be homesick. This is one of their big points. If you read books about Rachmaninov or Stravinsky, they say they suffered tremendously abroad from homesickness and never created anything after they left Russia. I knew this was propaganda, but still I was frightened, sitting in a small restaurant in Moscow a couple of days before I left, feeling really terrible like it's the last time I can ever hear Russian conversation. But in New York there are almost as many Russian restaurants as in Moscow."

Would he like to say something about life in Moscow? "The only place you have crowds of people discussing modern poetry all through the night is Moscow." This appears to illustrate the principle that intellectual activity increases with physical repression. "Exactly. They talk because they cannot do anything. If you do anything you go to prison."

Presumably *Liquid Sky* cannot be shown in Russia? "Oh, never. They are repressed about everything, including sex. All communist societies are very repressed sexually."

Liquid Sky *is currently showing in London at the ICA Cinema and the Classic, Chelsea.*

Duncan Fallowell

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 229)

ACROSS
1 Livestock feed (6)
4 Idle talk (6)
7 Longest river (4)
8 Women's underwear (8)
9 Deserter (8)
12 Adult males (3)
15 Column base (6)
16 Emergence (6)
17 Type of reggae (3)
19 Arabic counting system (8)
24 Glacier fissure (8)
25 Cut short (4)
26 Killed in battle (6)
27 Roof window (6)

DOWN
1 Coward (4)
2 Luxurious life (5,4)
3 Keepsake (5)
4 Christmas play (5)
5 Difficult journey (4)
6 Exclusive (5)
10 Additional (5)
11 Message acknowledgement (5)
12 Powerful whirlpool (9)
13 Nuzzle (4)
14 Primates (4)
18 Destiny (5)
20 Antibody (5)
21 Mountain nymph (5)
22 Wicked (4)
23 Goad (4)

SOUTION TO No 228
ACROSS: 1 Banzai 5 Doff 8 Tramp 9 Tumbler 11 Delusion 13 Fain 15 Telepathy 18 Ripe 19 Schnapps 22 Macrami 23 Loose 24 Ally 25 Either
DOWN: 2 Avail 3 Zip 4 Introspective 5 Dumb 6 Fallacy 7 Study 10 Rend 12 Silk 14 Stun 15 Typical 16 Dram 17 Ashen 20 Probe 21 Wary 23 Lit

هكذا من الأصل

WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Exploiting sadness

With Christmas nearly upon us, the senses are assailed by a rash of posters and appeals for help for the poor and needy. Each pathetic image jostles for priority. But is the cause sometimes damaged as much by the distorted stereotype as it is helped by the money raised?

The Down's Children's Association knows well the dilemma of whether or not to exploit the pathetic in trying to pluck money from the heart strings. As an organization representing parents, professionals and Down's people themselves, the advertising men's advice has been questioned. But it is a tragedy that as hard as we struggle to present these children positively, picturing them in loving families or carrying on normal, everyday activities, others use them in lonely or helpless poses to raise money. The reason is clear: Down's children can be appealing and attractive, but at the same time are instantly recognizable by their "mongol" features. Sadly, with Down's Syndrome the commonest form of mental handicap, they have come to epitomise *all* mental handicap. But this is to forget that while some Down's children are indeed profoundly handicapped, the majority are not, and some have abilities in the near normal range.

None of this is conveyed in one of the award winning posters from the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. A pretty Down's girl stares out mourfully over the legend "Twenty children born on Christmas Day will always have a cross to bear". So successful was this that another poster used the same little girl accompanied by her mother. This time little Nina is smiling but the message is again negative, referring to her appearance in *Crossroads:* "You can switch off Nina's problems. Her mother can't". We must, however, commend Central Television's original decision, at the behest of Mencap, to write a mentally handicapped person into a peak-time soap opera in an effort to reduce predjudice and ignorance. Inevitably a Down's child was chosen. However, the script-writer, Arthur Schmidt, admits that Nina is capable of doing a lot more than was shown on the screen.

It is not only the money-seekers who use the face of Down's Syndrome. The DHSS took full-page colour advertisements to advertise for mental nurses. A nurse with a saintly expression has a young Down's person clutched adoringly to each bosom: "You have to be someone special to get this kind of welcome at work". Take this and the Mencap posters together and as a by-product you might get the message: "It's hell at home but bliss in an institution."

Clearly this runs counter to the policies of both organizations. Nowdays the majority of Down's children are loved and cherished by their own families, who are constantly suprised by their abilities, defying traditional medical opinion that their prospects are those of a cabbage.

Down's families don't mind of advertising the need for help for the mentally handicapped, but let them also be the leaders of a new era of positive understanding.

Maggie Emslie

The author is Director of the Down's Children's Association



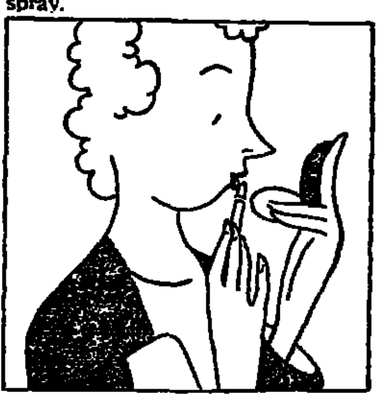
Advertising a wrong image?

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Bringing on the dancing curls

Because Sophie couldn't get back from work in time, I was asked to do Rachel's hair for her first ball. She came upstairs in her dressing gown and sat at the cluttered desk I use as a dressing table. Could I make it look... well, different, she said, pushing at the thick corn-coloured bob. Scarlett had come to help in the way only younger sisters can, standing tremendously close to, and sometimes between, us both, and keeping up a steady flow of soothing chatter.

I twiddle away with heated rollers, hair driers, water sprays and round brushes. "How is it going to look?" asked Scarlett, rattling a can of spray-on mousse vigorously. "I don't know," I reply, truthfully, as the rollers come out and the backcombing begins. Rachel has brought up some blue and black ribbons to match her dress: we twist and tie them through her curls and fix it all with quantities of hair spray.



"I'm supposed to be there at seven," she says politely, her eyes on the clock which shows 6.43pm. Blue mascara, just a touch, lavender eye shadow and some pink lipstick. I smudge the mascara. "You've smudged it," breathes Scarlett, an inch away from the offending mark.

Quick smear of cleansing lotion, a final tweak here and pluck there. "Il faut souffrir pour être belle," I say. "She looks like Shirley Temple," mutters Scarlett and then, as the thunderclouds form "... but I like Shirley Temple".

Rachel races downstairs to put on her dress and shoes, and gallops back up to show the final result. Slim as a reed in shimmering blue striped taffeta, blue spotted stockings, pale skin and clouds of gold curls, Rachel is transformed into a rare beauty. As she patters off to the car, we lean on the banisters and sigh and smile and shake our heads. I can remember the day she was born. Scarlett will be next, I suppose, if we can only pin her down.

The trading at Spitalfields Market is nearly over when we arrive, stiff-eyed and yawning at 7 am. Our breath hangs in the air as we stamp our feet on the frosty cobblestones: through the slippery stack of Christmas trees we see the small lights glimmering at the different stalls. Sam Levy leads us round, introducing us to the bosses. Would they be kind enough to send occasional packages of fruit and vegetables to the Refuge? To a man they agree, these generous giants of the market place.

We step gingerly round nets of sprouts and crates of avocados, stacks of green pineapples waiting to ripen, potatoes and onions, boxes of leeks and tangerines all fresh and gleaming and appetizing.

It is nearly nine and high time for lunch ("This is my lunch" says a grinning lad, sitting on a crate of celery, munching a roll: he has been up since 2.30 am). We adjourn to a special pub where Sam gives us some traditional refreshment: toasted cheese sandwiches and black coffee with a sensible measure of whisky therein. By the time we get home, we are warm and sleepy and not fit for anything much but smiling.



A rather close friend of mine opened up a packet of dry roasted peanuts in a tin foil pack. "Good Lord," he said, sniffing and reeling round the kitchen. "Greugh." I sniffed too. "Faugh." Wafting out from the silver slit came a fearsome aroma, a revenge of which any butler would be proud. The nuts rattled obediently into a dish and were extremely good: to keep them tasting so delicious it seems they must be stored in a gas to shame a stink bomb. How awful if someone were to open them behind a frightful bore at a party and tiptoe off, leaving him to explain away the deadly whiff.

I couldn't get a taxi so I reluctantly drove my car to the Lichfield lunch. Having arrived, the only course of action was to leave the machine safely but illegally parked. Inside the Tai-Pan, all was meeting and eating and laughter, outside it was the Denver Boot for the spivmobile. The saga involved buses and underground trains, long echoing subways, past buskers and the inflated King Kong and a duration of several hours.

The police couldn't have been kinder: the fact remains that the car clung rigidly to her unlawful perch for half a day, what with one thing and another, which seems to me to be a strange way to sort out traffic congestion.

I found a packet of dried peas in the larder which had been there for 15 years. Being my mother's daughter, I incorporated them into a vegetable soup I was making. The instructions were complicated: "Empty peas into a bowl... submerge in boiling water ... insert two tablets into muslin bag and stir until dissolved... leave overnight – stir..." and so on. A day later, I had some large chalky grey peas ready to cook.

Into the pot they went with all the other ingredients and on to a low flame: after an hour, I peeked under the lid and saw that they had shed their skins, which now covered the surface of the soup completely like ghastly transparent puffbulls. I also have a tin of drinking chocolate which is marked 2s. 1d. I made some the other night which we drank in silence. I love thrift.



In the city square in Leeds the Black Prince, bracing himself in his stirrups and reigning in his stamping warhorse, points with approval at the Christmas tree, garlanded with lights and tinsel. He reminds me of the statues in Vienna: crowding along the roofs of the palaces, swinging their legs, pointing, advising, leaning over doors and staggering under the weight of buildings. Sometimes they fight furiously at street corners, sometimes stroll with arms on each other's shoulders or play violins.

In the gardens of the Schonbrunn Palace, a woman bathes her tiny baby in a circular pool. In the slanting winter sunlight, the icicles harden on her bare arms and the child wriggles in the freezing black water. Statues made nowadays are rather plonking, chaps just standing about: the exception is Jan Smuts, who comes into his own in the winter weather when he skates solemnly round Parliament Square.

FIRST PERSON

David Hunt

I don't like being taken for a ride

In these days of self-help, independence and isolation, disabled people are doing more and more for themselves with the help of "aids". An aid is, basically, something that reaches parts other devices cannot reach. This can mean anything from elasticated laces for converting your shoes into slip-ons to a car with drive-on access for a wheelchair.

At the recent Naidex exhibition in London they were all there – wheelchairs, walking frames, electronic sensors, kitchen gadgets, even British Telecom. There were 20 different ways of getting in or out of the bath and on or off the lavatory, electric beds bending and flexing before your very eyes, and an arrangement of monolithic high-rise chairs that looked like furniture from a giant's living-room.

In the busy hustle of social workers, sales reps and occupational therapists it was still possible to spot the disabled, not especially by their handicaps. We were the ones clustered around the stands like children outside a sweetshop.

I would have liked one of the easy-to-operate, eye-level ovens on display. I have not used my own gas-cooker oven for more than a year now as it is too awkward to bend down to. However, I cannot afford the £500 needed to buy the special one. Like most disabled people, I am fairly hard-up.

Should I approach my local authority? Under the law, it is their responsibility to provide aids. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, however, only obliges them; it doesn't force them. I am alright if what is involved is a simple lid-opener or kettle-holder, but anything costly and there will have to be assessment and discussion in high places.

I do not really blame the local Authorities, especially mine, for the situation. They have the unenviable task of deciding between serious wants and great needs on an ever-diminishing budget.

There is, though, one area of the aids business in which I would dearly like to see a big shake-up. Ask any disabled person what he or she wants most and nine times out of ten the answer will be mobility.

In my own bid for freedom, I decided to get a "power chair".

These are not supplied by any outside agency, but I knew I could buy one on hire-purchase by using my precious social security mobility allowance through a scheme called Motability. I chose a mid-range model that is basically a box. In it, I proceed along the pavement at up to 4mph, very bumpily and with no weather protection. If I feel brave enough I will take on a kerb up to 5in high using my "kerb-climbers", and I must be even braver to reverse over a similar kerb, especially on to a busy road. I have no lights, horn or even anything to carry shopping.

Indoors, the walls of my hall bear witness to the lack of controllability caused by front castor wheels. And, when at last I have manoeuvred my chair into the correct position for recharging, I have to grope, almost at floor level with two complicated seven-pin plugs. What will I end up paying for my power chair? No less than £1,500 (plus £20 for insurance)! I also inquired about a foam seat-cushion, but they cost £85 so I am making do with a "non-aids" one!

Remember the great campaign by racing driver Graham Hill and Lord Snowdon over the lethal blue Ministry "trikes"? Now we need a champion to tackle the power chair companies. Otherwise their captive market will go on being exploited. As the sales rep admitted to me discreetly but with brutal candour: "They've got you where they want you, haven't they? You either buy one or stay indoors."

Coping with a telephone torment

Sarah Jane Checkland on the increasing menace of the obscene phone call – and how to combat it



The Englishman's castle is vulnerable in a number of ways, none more so than through that thin line of communication with the outside world, the telephone. It is bad enough just to be interrupted as you wallow in the bath. When the call is from one or other of the two telephone menaces, the salesman or the obscene caller, what a moment it can be.

We are in the midst of an obscene phone call boom. Official complaints to British Telecom from England, Scotland and Wales rose from about 80,000 in 1971 to *180,000 in 1980 (whereupon the* comprehensive figures went silent because of BT's devolution). And these are only the ones that are reported: almost everyone I know has suffered a harassing call of some kind or another.

The culprits are often male, the victims female. The callers rate low on the perversion chart, less significant even than the flasher, although their methods can be quite sophisticated. The titillation on their part and the shock element on yours comes from their advantage of surprise.

One case combined both "commercial" and "obscene" techniques. It began on a seemingly harmless note. Sarah from Fulham had just set up a business taking groups of students on tours abroad. One day she received a call from "a charming, respectable-sounding" man who said he had got her number from the classified section of a newspaper. He was under a deadline for some market research, and could she possibly help him out? Sarah agreed and answered his questions. "What size clothes do you take?" he asked, and "I do hope I don't embarrass you, but could you possibly tell me whether your bra fastens at the front or the back?" And so he proceeded towards his pornographic punchline.

An hour later the phone rang again. By this time Sarah had recovered her cool, and was relieved to find herself talking to a prospective dad, considering sending his son Richard on the tour. "He asked all the right questions", she says, "I was really taken in". When, after hearing the same propositions, Sarah ended the call, it gradually dawned on her that apart from the kicks he had already got, this man had all her vital statistics, her daily habits and her address.

She was terrified. His action was, to her, akin to rape, all the more so as he had exploited her kindness and good manners. He kept on ringing well into the night, leaving a sickening crop of messages on her answering machine.

What should you do in circumstances like this, as the telephone tumbles from your nerveless hand? Sarah rang the police, and a nice young constable came round. He reassured her and recommended various commonsense precautions such as: "Don't let any strangers in" and "Put the telephone down if he rings". He also told her that as no real threat had been made, no action could be taken. This sentiment was repeated by a spokesman at Scotland Yard, who said that as far as he was aware, "even obscene phone calls are not against the law".

It took British Telecom's *Nuisance Callers* information leaflet to get the facts straight. Under Section 49 of the British Telecommunications Act 1981 a person shall be guilty of an offence "who sends by means of a public telecommunications service... a message or other matter which is grossly offensive or of an indecent, offensive or menacing character or sends... a message that he knows to be false". The enforcement of this law is in the hands of the police. So far so good. But how can one prove *who the offender is?*

Some months ago I suffered the snorts and guffaws of a "nuisance caller" on a Saturday night. I rang British Telecom to ask the operator if he could either trace or block these calls. "No, sorry. There is nothing we can do until Monday," was the reply. "Why don't you take the phone off the hook?"

A spokesman said: "It's like poison pen letters and the Post Office, we are just the carriers ... but as a social service we have some obligation to help". The spokesman, courteous in the extreme, would not explain exactly what facilities were *available for blocking and tracing* "for security reasons". Instead BT recommends that subscribers report their problem to the local customer services manager. When asked whether he is on duty 24 hours a day, their answer is "Well, no".

I rang Plessey, makers of telephone systems, to find out what provisions they can offer. They said that to trace calls even with their latest equipment it will still be necessary to notify the exchange. There would be the opportunity to put the call on "hold", but as soon as you do that the offender would probably ring off.

At present, successful tracing of calls depends on a number of factors. First, there would have to be more than one of you present and you would have to have two phones. One of you must suffer the not-so-sweet nothings coming down the line while the other rings the exchange for help. It might take up to 20 minutes, and the culprit's line would only be successfully traced it he or she was on the same exchange.

Henry Scope, a lawyer working in Gracechurch Street, London conducted this experiment some months ago with that rare bird, the female obscene phone caller. She was not on the same exchange, and therefore has not been traced.

I turned for advice to two groups who make unhappiness and unsolicited phone calls their business. Jean Burt at the Samaritans says: "Most who ring are scared stiff of women. Women don't understand this and get very frightened. Some of the people who ring us with sexual calls are very helpable".

The method of dealing with dirty callers recommended by the British Telecom leaflet is probably the most sensible. "Hang up gently, showing no emotion. Many such callers hope for an emotional reaction and long conversations as they would like nothing better than an exchange of insults. Do not give the caller the satisfaction; simply hang up".

Telephone marketing, or "junk selling" as it is called in the United States, is nothing like as sinister as the obscene call, and nothing like as prevalent. In a recent survey by the Department of Fair Trading, it was discovered that out of a cross-section of 1,500 telephone owners, only 21 per cent had ever received such calls.

Although the telephone salesmen may be insidious or forceful, he can only be categorized as an irritation rather than a threat. He is trying to get at your money rather than at you, and judging by some of his methods (like shouting "Sale! Sale! Sale!" at the relevant moment), he will "burn himself out" within a matter of months. Most of his calls are business to business, and thus do not intrude into the home.

The survey found that at least half the telephone owners interviewed wanted unsolicited calls to be banned by law (as in Denmark and West Germany). Banning, however, would contradict Britain's legal position regarding privacy, namely that there is no right to privacy and that therefore there can be no invasion of privacy. The survey goes on to show that after having received calls of this kind, only 42 per cent still wanted the ban.

To protect the consumer, the Department of Fair Trading has drawn up a gentlemanly set of guidelines for the salesman. They include the following: the purpose of the call should be made clear at the *outset*; companies should make efforts to remove a name from a contact list if requested; there should be a cooling-off period during which the consumer can cancel an agreement. This is echoed in a list compiled by the British Direct Marketing Association.

In the case of unsolicited advertisments through the letterbox, the Department of Fair Trading in conjunction with the Post Office has taken more specific steps. Apply to NPS Freepost 22, London 1E 7E1 for an application form, and you can then specify exactly what sorts of advertising material you do and do not want.

THE TIMES COOK

Make the most of goodies



Shona Crawford Poole

Good resolutions for Christmas. Eat the fruit before is shrivels. Crack the nuts before they rattle in their shells, and *do* something with the stem ginger before it cements itself stickily to a shelf.

Solve that high-class savoury problem of what to do with the last of the caviare by serving it with eggs of another feather; or buy the stuff specially for a sumptuous little dish that is just the thing for a Christmas brunch or dainty supper. Beluga may be best, but in this guise the outsize red-gold orbs of *salmon roe* caviare at a quarter the price are highly recommended.

Set shelled, soft-boiled quails' eggs on a bed of creamy scrambled egg and top with a spoonful of caviare. Then, depending on the mood and the occasion, eat them with buttery toast soldiers, triangular croutons of crisply-fried bread, or thinly-sliced brown bread and butter.

Eggs on eggs
Serves four

12 quail eggs
6 to 8 large eggs
Salt and freshly-ground black pepper
45 to 55g (1½ to 2oz) butter
4 to 6 tablespoons double cream
45 to 55g (1½ to 2oz) caviare

Put the quails' eggs in a pan of cold, salted water. Bring to the boil and cook the eggs for one minute only. Plunge them briefly into cold water to stop the cooking process. Shell the eggs and keep them warm in a bowl of water that is not too hot to hold your hand in.

Break the hens' eggs into another bowl. Season them generously with salt and freshly-ground black pepper and beat them lightly. Melt the butter in a small, heavy pan and when it froths add the eggs. Stir them on a low heat until they are almost set, then stir in the cream. Taste to check seasoning.

Divide the scrambled egg between four small warmed plates. Arrange three quails' eggs on each serving and top with a teaspoon of caviare. Serve immediately with croutons, toast or bread.

It is curious how reluctant many people are to peel fruit for themselves and how much they *enjoy* eating it when the work is done for them. In the case of what are called in the trade soft citrus fruits – the tangerines, clementines and new cross-breeds – peeling is especially easy, and the quality, at this time of year, is high. Serve the seedless varieties peeled and thinly sliced with a festive splash of orange liqueur. Or cover individual segments in a brittle coat of caramel to eat as petits fours or sweets. Grapes can be given the same treatment, but both must be eaten within a few hours of coating because the caramel melts quickly in high humidity.

Caramel-coated clementines
Makes about 48 pieces

6 medium seedless clementines
450 g (1 lb) granulated sugar
150 ml (¼ pint) water
A little oil

Peel the fruit carefully without breaking the skin of each segment. Remove any pith and arrange the segments on a wire drying-rack with a little space between each piece. Leave in a warm, airy place for an hour or so – allowing the fruit to dry a little helps the caramel to stick to it.

Put the sugar and water in a heavy-based pan and heat slowly until the sugar has dissolved completely. Raise the heat and cook the syrup without stirring it until it is a pale golden colour. Once the sugar turns to caramel it darkens very quickly and develops a bitter taste, so watch it carefully.

Have ready a bowl of hot water that the pan of caramel can stand in. And as soon as the caramel is ready, take the pan off the heat and stand it in the water. This will stop it cooking further and keep it liquid.

Using tongs or a couple of forks (sugar tongs work well) pick up the segments one at a time without piercing the skin and dip into the caramel. Set each coated segment on to a *well-oiled plate or tray and* leave to cool. The sugar coating will be set hard.

Stem ginger in thick syrup tastes hot and mellow in the same breath. Addicts eat it on its own or with cream or ice cream, an overpoweringly rich combination for everyone else. But drained of its syrup and finely chopped, a little stem ginger mixed with whipped cream is an interesting filling for brandy snaps. It is also excellent in the topping for this unusually-flavoured apple crumble. The ground coriander adds another warm, aromatic taste.

Apple and ginger crumble
Serves four

450 g (1 lb) peeled and sliced cooking apples
55 g (2 oz) demerara sugar
1 teaspoon ground coriander
For the crumble
110 g (4 oz) wholewheat flour
55 g (2oz) butter
55 g (2 oz) demerara sugar
55 g (2 oz) stem ginger, chopped
1 teaspoon ground coriander

Put the apples in an ovenproof dish. Mix the sugar and ground coriander and sprinkle the mixture over the fruit. Sift the flour into a bowl and add the butter cut in dice. Using your fingertips, rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, ginger and ground coriander.

Spoon this topping over the *apples and bake the crumble in* a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the apples are cooked and the topping is lightly browned. The exact time will vary with the size of the dish.

A hazelnut cheesecake is a versatile standby for Christmas entertaining. It freezes well and can be served as cake or pudding. A word of warning though. Don't be tempted to make it with very low-fat soft white cheese; the result will be wet and grainy.

Hazelnut cheesecake
Serves 10 to 12

55g (2oz) butter
2 tablespoons demerara sugar
225g (8oz) digestive biscuit crumbs
225g (8oz) shelled hazelnuts
900g (2lb) cream cheese (Philadelphia is fine)
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
225g (8oz) soft brown or caster sugar
4 large eggs
55g (2oz) chocolate, coarsely grated (optional)

Choose a deep-sided, 20cm (8in) diameter cake tin with a loose bottom, and butter it well. If the tin has a fixed base, line it with baking parchment or greaseproof paper. Melt the remaining butter and mix it with the sugar and biscuit crumbs. Spread the mixture over the base of the prepared tin and spread it flat.

Spread the nuts on a shallow tray and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/320°F, gas mark 3) for 10 to 15 minutes. Allow them to cool, then rub off the skins and grind the nuts finely. A coffee grinder will do this.

Put the cream cheese into a large bowl and beat until smooth. Beat in the vanilla, sugar, eggs and ground nuts. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/320°F, gas mark 3) for about 1½ hours. *The cheesecake will puff up in* the oven and when ready it is just firm and lightly browned. It will sink as it cools.

Cool the cheesecake in its tin and chill it for 12 hours before running a knife round the edge and turning it out. Decorate the sides with coarsely-grated chocolate pressed on to the cake.

Tomorrow
Spectrum: Profile of Roald Dahl

Super Market.

THE TIMES DIARY

Burning ambition

In April, at Wimbledon magistrates court, Dr Brian Davies was fined £1,000 with £200 costs for illegally receiving social security benefits amounting to £11,470.48. Dr Davies, a metallurgist, said: "I did it to expose inefficiencies in the DHSS", and personally reported the fraud to Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary. Now he wants to know why the DHSS seems reluctant to sue him for the return of the money. Dr Davies has told Fowler and the DPP that if he is



denied his "day in court", he will burn down one of the department's buildings. In February, the same Dr Davies threatened to burn down five branches of the Midland Bank but was found not guilty under the terms of the Criminal Damage Act. Most fittingly, he is the male model in a health education coucil poster which carries the slogan, "Action makes the heart grow stronger."

Crystal clear

What used to be the London *Council on Alcoholism* yesterday took on a name rather harder to swallow: the Greater London Alcohol Advisory Service, which can be neatly abbreviated to Glaas. The council's annual report is not very cheery reading, and refers at one point to a time "when our spirits and finances were particularly low . . ."

Weighting game

Revelations about the earning powers of video-tape editors at London Weekend Television reminds me of a joke told by Granada's Gus Macdonald at this year's Edinburgh International Television Festival: What's the difference between an Arab oil sheik and a videotape editor at LWT? Answer: Arab oil sheiks don't get London weighting.

False witness

Last week's *QED* programme on BBC1 showed a specially staged mugging scene which lasted 14 seconds. Viewers then saw an identity parade of nine men and were asked to telephone the programme to say whether they recognized the mugger. Of more than 1,800 people who rang, 1,300 chose the wrong man, making the odds two to one against an accurate identification. Tonight's *QED* programme asks what makes witnesses so unreliable.

BARRY FANTONI



"Your jokes are great, but you'll have to improve your handicap"

Corps Domestique

Gin slings and ironed newspapers brought out to the verandah by silently gliding houseboys are no part of today's diplomatic life. Foreign office memorandum on diplomats' accommodation states: "At most posts nowadays the cost of extra servants is the biggest item, so we must be able to extract full value when we have to pay them." The design of diplomats' housing would also take into account "environmental considerations, the need to hold down domestic fuel consumption and the gradual disappearance of servants, leaving officers and their wives to cope with more of the domestic chores."

● **Readers planning flying Christmas visits to friends and relations abroad should take Sellotape, ribbon and wrapping paper. The British Airports Authority warns that gifts already wrapped "may have to be opened" and advises passengers to wrap on arrival.**

Bible thumping

The Authorized Version of the Bible, otherwise known as the King James Version, is being promoted for the first time by its four publishers, the Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Collins and Eyre and Spottiswoode. The purpose of next year's £12,000 campaign is to bring "this most poetic version of the Bible to the attention of the public," says Alec Watson of Collins. He will certainly have support from Julian Critchley, who denigrated the *New English Bible* in an article entitled My Thirteen Worst Books, in this week's *Sunday Times*. He wrote: "It reduces to banality what was not only treasured and venerable but has become part of the English mind."

PHS

Your turn to back off, Mr King

by John Lyons

The General Council's decision last week in refusing to commit the trade union movement to support unions openly defying the law was a turning point for the TUC. There never has been any doubt that the overwhelming majority of those affiliated to the TUC would not support actions designed to undermine the supremacy of Parliament and the law.

Some union leaders say they will organize the overthrow of that decision at next year's Trades Union Congress. It remains to be seen if they will succeed. If they do I think there will be a real, not imaginary, danger of the TUC splitting irrecoverably.

However, that decision is for the future. What is certain is that last week's decision has changed the climate in which the TUC operates. It has done so to the advantage of the TUC, pulling it back in the main stream of British political life.

As a consequence the pressure is now on the Government to abandon its own ideological preconceptions about trades unions and demonstrate its good faith in its expressed desire for a genuine dialogue with the Congress.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary can start the process by showing a willingness to consider serious amendments to the Trade Union Bill. There is, of course, the question of the political levy but that is already under discussion between Mr King and the TUC. However, other equally important issues have not been discussed. Part One of the Bill contains the provision that union's principal executive committees must be elected by direct postal ballot of the entire membership.

Apart from the fact that this would create havoc in many unions with perfectly good arrangements of their own, it suffers from three principal defects.

First, it is a dangerous precedent for the Government to set about determining by law how the internal affairs of voluntary associations should be organized. Second, in most unions the principal executive committees are responsible to periodic conferences and can be dismissed by them. When that is no longer the case, the Government's measure will leave the membership of a union without any formal means of enforcing a change in its committee's policies.

Third, the Government is contravening the principles which it set out earlier this year in its own Green Paper, *Democracy in Trade Unions*. Paragraph 18 said: "The Government is conscious that any legislation must take into account the wide variety and complexity of existing electoral arrangements". Later, paragraph 54 said, "The Government's prime aim . . . is to encourage trade unions . . . to reform their electoral arrangements so as to become . . . more democratic and more truly representative of their members' interests". It is not to be expected that the Government will withdraw Part One. But it could conform with its Green Paper principles if it were amended to allow the membership of each union to choose by ballot between its existing election arrangements, and methods of changing them, and those the Government prefers. That would ensure that the Government's methods would have to be considered but the final decision would be taken by the membership.

There are other amendments the Government should consider. For example, the Bill defines a strike as anything that involves a person breaking his contract of employment or interfering with his performance. Any such acts authorized by a trade union will have to be authorized by ballot. The expression of a workers' grievance by extending the tea break would need a ballot. It is absurd.

Then there is the requirement that any union given authority to take strike action must do so within a month. This could actually worsen disputes: unions will be forced to use their mandate at the end of four weeks when, perhaps, a fifth week of negotiations would avert the need.

Mr King could also take the opportunity to right the manifest injustice of the High Court's decision in the Dimbleby case, a result of which is that an employer can vitiate lawful industrial action simply by registering his company under another name.

But whatever the details, the important point is that last Wednesday's decision was a watershed and the Government should now meet the TUC at least halfway. If it does not do so, then for the first time since 1979 the Government will find itself put on the defensive, politically, in its handling of trade union issues. Much will flow from that.

The author is General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association.

David Watts on the election blow to Japanese-western relations

The bribe that swamped Ron and Yasu



Singapore

Only five weeks after President Reagan's visit to Tokyo, hopes of a closer relationship between Japan and the West have been damaged, perhaps irreparably for the foreseeable future, by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's setback at the polls.

The prime minister was forced to call the election in the wake of the conviction of his predecessor, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, for accepting a $2m bribe from Lockheed. For the West, it could prove one of the most expensive bribes in history.

More than any other postwar prime minister, Mr Nakasone's vision of Japan's role in the world coincides almost exactly with western expectations: a Japan more assertive in foreign and military affairs, more responsive to trade problems and more willing to integrate itself into the western world in the truest sense. No other senior Jananese politician is as pro-western.

During their talks – in which they were soon on "Ron" and "Yasu" terms – Mr Reagan and Mr Nakasone reached a whole series of understandings. The visit was marked by genuine warmth, at least on the international plane. Ironically the understandings were kept under wraps by the Americans for fear that they might jeopardize Mr Nakasone's chances during the elections. In the event, he might have been able to distract some attention away from the damaging ethics-in-politics issue which contributed so much to the Liberal Democratic Party's reversal if he had played up his international standing.

With a solid election victory behind him, Mr Nakasone had planned to increase Japanese defence spending and defence cooperation with the US, particularly by undertaking more reconnaissance flights over the Pacific. He had also planned to open up the Japanese market to greater imports of American beef and citrus fruit. More importantly, he intended to shake up the Japanese capital markets and internationalize the yen to help reduce the disparity between the yen and the dollar, which the US feels is contributing heavily to the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Foreign affairs did not play a significant part in the campaign, but the image of Mr Nakasone as world-class statesman holding his own with Mr Reagan was expected to wash over domestic issues.

In the event, factional fighting over the Tanaka issue so divided the LDP that in many cases the party split its own vote by failure to liaise with members of other LDP factions competing in the same constituency. The party squandered its resources by fielding 339 candidates for the 270 seats it hoped to capture.

Even in the best of all possible worlds, what Mr Nakasone had promised Mr Reagan would have been difficult to deliver. But now the glacial progress towards the liberalization of Japanese markets will become even slower. If Mr Nakasone had made an issue of greater defence spending he might have won a good measure of public support. One of his advisers thinks he might even have got public support for allowing the British carrier Invincible into a Japanese port after it was barred from Australia.

There is a growing feeling that he should have tried to capitalize on issues in which he believes strongly: in the event he went on the offensive and allowed the initiative to pass to the opposition.

So, far from being in a position to make good his promises to Mr Reagan, Mr Nakasone now finds himself with a tiny majority fighting for his political survival. Today there is no margin of support left over for the exotica of foreign policy.

Though he is likely to survive the initial hurdle of confirmation as prime minister before an early session of the Diet, even the less controversial issues of domestic policy will mean that he has to bargain with the opposition to get his government's legislation passed.

Issues throughout the next year will move slowly, dogged by compromises. There will scarcely be support for concessions to foreign countries on trade or anything else. "I am very much afraid about the future of the Japanese-American relationship", said a leading Japanese commentator.

One American diplomat said the much-vaunted "agenda for progress" initiated during the Reagan visit would now enter a tricky stage.

Mr Nakasone will most probably be able to muddle along until the next election for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party next November. It is possible that he will be reelected, but few think this is likely.

The probable outcome will be the accession of a new prime minister who will have to be much more cautious than Mr Nakasone on all issues on which the West has been seeking progress.

After Harrods, a ray of light from Dublin

While British television viewers looked in horror at the human devastation caused by the IRA bomb outside Harrods and listened to the ensuing condemnation from all quarters, seasoned observers of political reaction in Britain noticed one remarkable difference from previous incidents of this kind.

Dramatically absent on this occasion have been the ritual denunciations of the Irish government's alleged ambivalence about IRA violence, the accusations that the Irish Republic is a haven for terrorists. On the contrary, much coverage was given to the fact that the day before the Harrods bomb an Irish soldier and a young police cadet had been killed while securing the rescue of an English businessman from the IRA.

When Don Tidey, the chain stores executive, was restored to his family last Friday after a three-week ordeal, Mrs Thatcher's telegram congratulating Garret FitzGerald was fulsome in its praise of the Irish security forces. One official remarked that they half expected her to appear in battle dress in Co Leitrim to deliver her message in person.

It is natural that the Harrods bomb should have had a much greater impact on the British public because it happened on the streets of London a week before Chistmas. But politicians on both sides of the Irish Sea know it is only the latest incident in a bloody spiral of violence that has been gathering momentum over the past weeks.

This started in earnest in mid-November when IRA gunmen burst into a Pentecostal church hall in Darkly, South Armagh, and opened fire on the defenceless congregation. Since then there has been the murder of a prominent Unionist politician, a spate of sectarian killings, the Tidey kidnap and



Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald: united by a shared experience of atrocity

several members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary arraigned on murder charges.

The Darkly killings happened less than three weeks after Dr FitzGerald had met Mrs Thatcher at Chequers, the first Anglo-Irish summit meeting since relations were frozen at the time of the Falklands conflict. British officials concede that Dr FitzGerald was remarkably effective at that meeting. He impressed on the Prime Minister his concern about the political growth of Provisional Sinn Fein and the alienation of the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. He argued that the British took neither of these developments sufficiently seriously and did not comprehend the very real threat of the violence spreading to the Republic and even to Britain itself. British sources have since said they believe the Irish Premier did counsel Mrs Thatcher that Northern Ireland was an issue of the most urgent importance.

But there is another reason why Dr FitzGerald may have impressed Mrs Thatcher. The government he leads is implacably opposed to the Provisionals, whether in the political guise of Sinn Fein or the violent one of the IRA. Since he came to power accusations about being "soft" on the Provos have been directed from Dublin to London rather than the other way round. Irish politicians have been angry that British officials and even ministers in Belfast have been prepared to deal with Provisional Sinn Fein on constituency matters. They suspect that the British see Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, as one of a long line of terrorists stretching from Jomo Kenyatta to Robert Mugabe, with whom they have, in the end, been prepared to talk.

This week the Irish government is likely to be pressing much harder than the British towards finally proscribing Sinn Fein. Even the Fianna Fail leader, Charles Haughey, usually depicted in Britian as an arch-Republican, has said that he will back the government in any measures it thinks necessary.

What both London and Dublin want in the short term is much closer cooperation on security, particularly in the border areas. It has long been on the cards that when the New Ireland Forum reports next spring it will include proposals for a joint security force, involving the armies and police forces of the Republic and Britain. Another idea being canvassed is for a joint court in which judges from both sides of the border could sit together to try terrorist offences.

In the past the problem with such radical security proposals has always been seen to be the political difficulties they would present to both sides. Northern Unionists and many members of the Conservative Party would regard the involvement of the Irish army and police in operations on the northern side of the border as a de facto diminution of Britain's sovereignty in the province. They fear that other political initiatives strengthening Northern Ireland's links with the Republic would inevitably follow. On the Irish side, many politicians who wanted to play the green card could raise the spectre of British soldiers patrolling in border towns like Dundalk. There has also been anxiety about how Irish public opinion might react if their soldiers and policemen were shot by the IRA.

Such objections may carry much less weight now. Irish soldiers and policemen have been killed by Republican gunmen and others could be. The killing in the North shows no sign of abating. Families doing their Christmas shopping in London are now at risk. If there is any light it is that, perhaps for the first time, the bloodshed which has its roots in the politics of Northern Ireland seems likely to bring the British and Irish governments closer in seeking a common solution.

Mary Holland

Phillip Whitehead

Reuters: taking too much on trust?

Christmas will be late this year for a select group of lucky newspaper proprietors. They will have to wait a little longer for the public flotation of Reuters, from which some of them expect to make vast windfall profits. The problem with this present is the wrapping, for it was designed to stop Reuters ever becoming anyone's bran tub. The wrapping is the Agreement of Trust, by which the owners of Reuters bound themsleves in 1941 to regard their holdings as "in the nature of a trust rather than as an investment". Reverse that proposition, and you understand why expectations will be rising in the spring of 1984, as the glittering present is unwrapped. Because of the large profits earned by its business-information service, Reuters might be worth £1,000m if it were floated as a public company on the stock market.

The owners have seen their companies revalued upwards this year in anticipation of such a bonanza. The two biggest Reuters shareholders, Lord Rothermere's Associated Newspapers and Lord Matthews' Fleet Holdings, each has more than 12 per cent of Reuters. News International has 9 per cent, Reed International 7.9 per cent, and so on down. On a billion-pound float, without strings, Lords Rothermere and Matthews could clear £120m each, Mr Murdoch £90m and Reed International £79m. The latter group is floating off Mirror Group Newspapers, on the buoyancy which comes from its expected share of the Reuters spoils.

This could prove in itself to be a cruel blow to the diversity of a free press in Britain. The Mirror Group papers have, not uncritically, given general support to the Labour opposition. That has sometimes meant a courageous editorial line, against the grain of the tabloid-fed majority opinion of the day. It is hard to see how that line can be held, once Mirror Group Newspapers is floated as a public company, obliged to act in the best interests of its shareholders – whoever they are.

The Opposition has been pretty mute about the *Daily Mirror*. It should examine the wider issues behind the sale, which will lead it to the reason why it is happening at all: the Reuters bazaar. The issues are the same, whether we are safeguarding the expression of a viewpoint or the integrity of impartial coverage. Both are needed in the diversity of the press; neither can be guaranteed by the impulses and spasms of the money markets. So Parliament should look at the assumptions behind the Reuters sale, and the likely consequences. Reuters says that "a public issue would raise money for the further development of the company, as well as funds for its controlling shareholders". But which aim came first?

The present owners of Reuters have discovered that its Monitor system of international business information has been a tearaway success. Over the past 10 years it has expanded to account for 90 per cent of the business, with accelerating profitability. Last year Reuters paid a dividend, worth in all £2.5m, and allowed a selected handful of senior staff to buy shares. This year the profits are expected to top £50m. So do Reuters' owners see a pressing need to go to the capital market for investment funds, or for easy profits for themselves? Before they are allowed to amend the Agreement of Trust, which their predecessors signed in 1941, might we not examine the position of trustees like Lord Matthews, who are both proponents of the flotation and principal prospective beneficiaries.

The Agreement is an extraordinary document. Its provisions are widely known, thanks to a campaign of filial fervour by Alexander Chancellor in *The Spectator*, who has made a single-handed attempt to finger Lord Matthews and his fellow trustees. The Trust was cobbled together in 1941, after a barrage of parliamentary criticism of the way in which the national proprietors had bought a half interest in Reuters. Samuel Storey, then chairman of Reuters, wanted "a trust which would be representative of national interests and of Reuters spheres of action, and would hold the shares and the income arising therefrom for the maintenance of Reuters as an independent British-owned news-agency."

The new owners signed the Agreement among themselves. It was to terminate only on liquidation, on a stock transfer "submitted to and approved by the Lord Chancellor of England," and otherwise 21 years after the death of the last surviving descendant of Queen Victoria alive in 1941! It set out a simple definition of independence and integrity, and defined the shareholdings as a trust rather than an investment. We are now told that this Trust is bust. It is a mere shareholders' agreement.

The Attorney-General disclaims responsibility for it; no charitable issues are involved. The Lord Chancellor has never heard of it. Lord Matthews need not wait until the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of the Duke of Kent before he cashes in his stake.

Reuters has reacted with pained *surprise to such public* criticism as there has been. It has denied any intention to hive off the business-information services. But what guarantee have we that once accountable to a new ownership, greedy for pickings, Reuters will not scale down news services, not individually profitable, which are crucial to the flow of information in the small countries to which they are relayed? With asset-strippers at large in Fleet Street, Reuters journalists have been rightly nervous of their reputation for independence and impartiality. The management has responded as though *they* were the threat to the integrity of Reuters.

Plainly, Parliament should act, picking up Mr Storey's concept of an independent trust set out in 1941. It should do so before any prospectus is issued. The present trustees are hopelessly compromised. You cannot put forward a scheme, and be a beneficiary from it, when it fundamentally alters the agreement for which you stand trustee. The Lord Chief Justice should be asked to report on the Trust in the light of its proposed amendment. The Trust should be broadened, with members independent of the owners. It should be given a rewritten agreement, with guarantees on ownership which keep control within the national and local press institutions of Britain, Australia and New Zealand, the three countries concerned.

And if that makes Warburgs despair of putting together a package which can be sold to the financial institutions, will anyone be the poorer, except those who counted their windfall profits too early, and the dangers of what they proposed too late?

The author was Labour MP for Derby, North, 1970-83.

David Walker

The politicians who just don't rate

Pity the fate of junior minister William Waldegrave. He began 1983 at the Department of Education debating the future of universities and colleges, mingling with folk in gowns who spoke his All Souls' language. He ends it newly dragged from the sea of radioactive waste at Sellafield (one of his responsibilities at Environment) and put in charge of selling the rate-capping bill not only to reluctant councillors, but to a Parliament which even on the whips' optimistic arithmetic is astonishingly restive, and to a public which remains, as usual at the mention of municipal matters, largely indifferent.

When in doubt, it seems, send for a minister to coordinate the Government's message: Lord Whitelaw. Or set up a propaganda unit, as at Environment. Doubt there most certainly is.

In a speech last week we heard Mr Peter Rees, the Treasury Chief Secretary, saying in one breath that the overwhelming body of ratepayers are crying out for the relief offered by the rate-capping plan. In the next, straining to hear their sotto voce protests, he says wistfully: "I hope their case does not go by default."

Meanwhile Mr Patrick Jenkin attempts a media spin in the manner of Mr Michael Heseltine, but succeeds in leaving an impression of half-bakedness. The publication of the bill itself makes things little clearer. The Government's purposes appear confused: capping the rates of 15 councils will not necessarily cure the persistent problem of "overspending".

Mr Jenkin's colleagues give every sign of leaving him dangling in the breeze. When was the last time you heard Sir Keith Joseph say anything about capping rates? He, however, is responsible for the education budget, the largest element in local spending and without doubt the one area from which large cuts must come if rate-capping is to have any significant effect.

While the Government dithers, the well-oiled machine of municipal protest moves into gear. Hackney may be poor and suffer grant cuts, but it can still afford a squad of professional public relations specialists. Grand claims of constitutional impropriety come from local government's captive academic friends. The municipal unions bluster, as well they might, for this bill will surely have failed unless within three years the rate of decline in council staffing is accelerating way beyond anything seen in the years from 1980-82, when jobs were last being reduced.

Yet for all the din, for all the petitions displayed on library counters, for all the press releases, local government finance will remain an esoteric pursuit.

The public has shown that it gets agitated when a school closes; when rates demands really hurt (that has happened only recently to middle-class residents of city areas); when, despite the signs displayed prominently on the side of council dustcarts about gratuities, The dustman still comes knocking on the door to offer seasonal greetings with menaces. But when it comes to civic participation, to caring about what does happen in the town hall, to *knowing* who pulls the levers to make the municipal system work – count me out.

Take, of all boroughs, Camden: regularly in the news, with an excellent local paper, glamorous councillors. Here, surely, the people should know what is being done and spent in their name.

How many people, MORI asked recently, know the name of a single councillor who represents them? Answer, one person in five. How many even know which ward they live in? Answer, 23 per cent.

In other words, the foundations of the local government system as a working model of democracy are shaky. Rate-capping raises important issues of practice and principle, but beware "spokesmen" and ministers who claim to be speaking for a public that, until now, has basked in its silent ignorance of rates, of caps and who runs the town halls in its name.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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PARISH PUMP IMPERIALISM

The Rates Bill is misnamed. Of course it would suit ministers to appear as white knights saving the householders of Barnsbury and the factory owners of South Yorkshire from councillors who have sadly abused the tax weapon given them by the traditional system of property rating. But unless the Government has given itself over to quixotry, its ambitions must surely be larger. The Government is relying on this Bill to secure two objectives that have consistently eluded it: the control and reduction of local spending. Rates, let it not be forgotten, are only one element in the process of council spending; they are by no means an infallible guide to town hall excess. It is not rate levies but aggregate spending that, within no more than two years, will prove this contested piece of new law.

The theory of "rate capping" is deceptively simple. Pin the excess of spending, the unmanageability of the municipal system on the few easily-named Labour city councils; control their spending; a general problem is solved as other councils take heed. Yesterday's briefings made much of "shadow effects" and "fringe areas" by which councils outside the selective scheme suddenly would see reason. Yet here is where the Government's argument in the Bill runs into the sand. If Islington, Hackney, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne are uniquely culpable, then what need is there of demonstration effects? And unless the "high-spending" councils are responsible for exceeding the Treasury's targets year after year what is the argument behind the Government's wish for a general power to set the spending of each and every council in England and Wales?

In seeking to get the Labour-controlled city authorities squarely in the sights of his selective scheme Mr Jenkin is asking Parliament for elastic powers, so extensible he might as well name his list of guilty councils now and save tedious committee discussion. But no, the Bill bends over itself to involve Parliament at various stages of naming councils and setting their spending. Mr Jenkin's schemes appear perfectly manageable if councillors cooperate in good faith. That is unlikely and the prospect is one of huge bargaining sessions involving civil servants, ministers and members of Parliament and stretching over several months. The Bill says there are to be 45 extra civil servants – at first; without a significant increase in the time devoted by central offices to the detail of local spending the Bill poses grave dangers of maladministration.

It also calls into question the consistency with which the Government is prepared to tackle the issue of local spending. The councils on Mr Jenkin's little list are endearingly termed under another departmental rubric "partners": Hackney and Islington and the rest receive special money under the Inner Urban Areas Act. Rate-capping shoots a hole clean through inner cities policy for it really no longer makes much sense for more than £400 million to be pushed into special projects for precisely those areas from which Mr Jenkin hopes to save hundreds of millions. To make rate-capping work will involve not only his own officials speaking with a single voice. It will not do for the departmental ministers responsible for schools and social services and law and order to hold themselves aloof from the battles to come. Rate capping means cuts in departmental empires.

For the long and short of rate-capping is jobs. The bulk of local spending pays for the employment of street-sweepers, professional "volunteers", teachers, nuclear-free-zone officers; the Rates Bill will succeed in its own terms if and when the manpower watch for local authorities resumes its downward movement. During the months of this bill's Parliamentary passage there will, and rightly, be talk of constitutions, the balance of power in the state, ministerial dictatorship. But if it passes, the focus will have to shift to a lower plain. Numbers of staff in town hall and school staff room will be the arithmetical test of its success.

FROM ONE DEFEAT TO ANOTHER

When Mr Yassir Arafat left Beirut in August 1982 it was widely felt that he had succeeded in turning military defeat into moral and political victory. Though easily overrun in South Lebanon, his men had fought with surprising tenacity in Beirut against overwhelming odds, and Israel, in her attempt to crush them, had used methods which earned her the almost unanimous obloquy of world opinion. The Palestinians sailed from Beirut with their heads held high, apparently certain that their movement would live on.

That illusion of victory has cost them dear, for it enabled them to avoid facing up to the consequences of what had in fact been a serious defeat. Mr Arafat himself seemed to realise that his only hope of capitalising the moral victory in Beirut was to make clear the PLO's willingness to accept a peaceful compromise settlement with Israel, to be achieved through the good offices of the United States. He even realised the importance of not turning down President Reagan's peace plan, in spite of the fact that it ignored the PLO and ruled out an independent Palestinian state, and he worked hard to achieve a common negotiating platform with King Husain of Jordan. But he lacked the moral stature to spell out the implications unambiguously, and in the end he was unable to carry his own supporters with him. Then, in May this year, all the long-stifled grievances against his leadership within the movement boiled over in the mutiny in the Bekaa, which the Syrian regime, having grievances of its own, was quick to exploit.

Political gambits are subject to a law of diminishing returns. The moral benefit which Mr Arafat got from resisting the Israelis in the streets of Beirut has hardly been revived by the repeat performance staged against Syrians and fellow-Palestinians in the streets of Tripoli. True, he has succeeded in putting his opponents in the wrong. But he himself emerged from Tripoli yesterday a diminished and tawdry figure.

Even the considerable propaganda coup which he achieved in extremis by negotiating the release of 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in exchange for six Israelis was spoilt when his group claimed responsibility for the murderous attack on a Jerusalem bus, which was disowned publicly even by some known PLO supporters on the West Bank. The subsequent suggestion by his lieutenant, "Abu Jihad", that the civilian vehicle might have been hit "by mistake" is on a level with the IRA statement after the Harrods bomb. In both cases, the only encouragement to be drawn from it is that at least the authors of both statements now realize that indiscriminate attacks on civilians carry a high political cost. In the circumstances Israel's determination to deny Mr Arafat a comfortable departure from Tripoli is understandable, though by prolonging the end-game she will hardly have endeared herself to his increasingly unwilling hosts, the Lebanese.

Mr Arafat is now on his way to Tunis, but the expectation is that he will soon be back in Amman trying to pick up the threads of his dialogue with the King. That would be a wiser course than trying to restore the unity of the PLO, since the latter could now be achieved only on Syrian terms. It is not easy to believe now that Arab sovereignty will ever be restored on the West Bank, but the Reagan proposals are still formally on the table and Jordanians and Palestinians have yet to try the effect of a direct approach to Israel. They should now do so, for they have precious little left to lose.

PERILOUS VICTORY IN JAMAICA

Jamaica has a key role to play in President Reagan's attempts to revive both economic prosperity and American influence in the Caribbean. It is to be not only a reliable friend but also a model for neighbouring states, demonstrating that private enterprise brings better results than the state-controlled system promoted by Cuba. Mr Seaga, who became Prime Minister shortly after the election of President Reagan, has received massive economic help and political support from Washington.

Unfortunately his decision to call an early election has not brought him quite the type of endorsement he needs. Mr Michael Manley, leader of the People's National Party, ducked out, alleging unfair electoral rolls but probably also aware that in spite of severe economic difficulties Mr Seaga would still win. The result is that the country faces virtual one-party rule for the next five years, which Mr Seaga himself recognizes to be unsatisfactory. He has offered opposition and neutral politicians seats in the Senate but this will not make for healthy politics at a time when considerable adjustments are going to be required if Mr Seaga's programme is to be successful.

Mr Seaga led his right-wing Labour Party to power after the 1980 election dedicated to the task of reviving Jamaica's moribund economy. Poor world prices for bauxite and a sugar crop depleted by storms and lack of investment were among his problems – along with a $1,600m foreign debt. He promised "deliverance".

It looked at first as if he might indeed deliver – and in one or two respects he has. The violence which saw 900 people shot dead in the 10 months preceding the 1980 election has given way to law and order, and tourism has picked up in consequence. He negotiated a large programme with the International Monetary Fund and began to get inflation down – to below five per cent at one stage. But the recovery has not been sustained.

Inflation on the eve of the election was running at 18 per cent, unemployment at 26 per cent and factories, far from participating in an industrial revolution, were working well below capacity. The foreign debt has risen to more than $2,300m, generating a debt servicing requirement which absorbs most of the island's foreign exchange. A 43 per cent devaluation preceded the election. Like so many developing countries at a time of world recession, Jamaica finds itself on a slippery slope and unable to keep its footing. Moreover, economic forecasts have been less than sanguine, so Mr Seaga's real difficulties may be just beginning. Indeed, some experts expect that economic pressures will force the Labour government to go to the country again within a year or two. Will Edward Seaga be third time lucky? A picture of Fidel Castro is still prominently displayed in Mr Manley's office. Mr Seaga's victory will have pleased Washington but it will be no cause for complacency.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Royal commission for London's future

From Mr Geoffrey Alderman and others

Sir, The proposals to abolish the Greater London Council and replace it with appointed bodies must be deeply worrying to anyone with a concern for genuine local democracy and long-established constitutional conventions.

A constitutional change of such importance is out of keeping with its brief, last-minute inclusion in the Conservative Manifesto. The issue has not been clearly discussed in public, nor did it play a significant role in the election campaign.

Constitutional changes of such magnitude must be based on a large measure of agreement. The right course now, as in the past, is to establish a royal commission to make proposals for more effective elected local government in London – and in the six metropolitan areas too – and for Parliament to consider its report and to take account of the views of the citizens both in London and the metropolitan boroughs. A royal commission preceded the ending of the LCC and the establishment of the GLC.

The Government proposes, during the transition period, to replace a democratically elected council with a body of substitute councillors nominated by the 32 London boroughs without any further election, either at the GLC or borough level. The political composition of the boroughs is well known. Not merely does it threaten the principle of elected local councils, but it threatens to bring fundamental constitutional arrangements into an angry and uncertain partisan future.

The abolition of the GLC would make London the only capital city in the civilized world without a directly elected governing council. A century of democratic local control of London-wide services would end and a basic shift of power to the central state would begin.

The Government's scheme, moreover, in its White Paper, *Streamlining the Cities*, parcels out the common services of the GLC to a series of joint boards, commissions, trusts and quangos or else dumps them piecemeal on the London boroughs. The key functions of transport and strategic planning will be subject to direct rule from Whitehall.

It seems that the citizens of London are not to be trusted by Government to make their own arrangements. Also such a fragmented arrangement is far more complex and confusing to the public and will be more expensive than the relatively simple structure it purports to streamline.

No one can avoid the conclusion that there is neither theory nor principle at work here, but simply a short-term political consideration. That matter should be settled by the electorate in April, 1985, as the majority of Conservative councillors on the GLC themselves appear to want.

No one pretends that the GLC is perfect or that it could not sensibly be improved. But there are constitutional ways of achieving such improvements provided the necessary time is allowed for adequate study. Violation of these principles would be a bad day for the future of parliamentary democracy in Great Britain. A royal commission is the obvious way forward now.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY ALDERMAN (Royal Holloway College),
BERNARD CRICK (Birkbeck College),
J. A. G. GRIFFITH (London School of Economics),
G. W. JONES (London School of Economics),
GERALD MANNERS (University College, London),
TREVOR SMITH (Queen Mary College),
A. D. G. SMART (University College, London),
As from: Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Malet Street, WC1.
December 15.

Violation of human rights in Turkey

From Mrs Diana Spearman

Sir, It is natural that the distinguished university teachers who signed the letter (December 14) attacking the Turkish Government's educational policy should be disquieted by the reported dismissal of a number of Turkish academics. The reference in the letter to "university autonomy", however, shows a certain lack of knowledge of the background.

Arguments for autonomy are undermined if the universities are unable to prevent political differences escalating into such violence that the universities were, before 1980, closed for months at a time. Both members of the staff and students died in these disturbances. I have heard criticism of the Army, from those who did not wholeheartedly support the military government, for not going in and restoring order before the military takeover. Moreover, the National Security Council were promoting a complete reconstruction of university education.

In the paragraphs relating to the prosecution of the members of "the peace movement" the letter almost gives the impression that the signatories believe that academics and intellectuals should be exempt from the law. If the prosecution allegations are correct there is no doubt that the members of the peace movement were guilty under Turkish law, a law with which they must have been familiar.

The sentences may seem heavy for the offences, but in considering sentences passed by Turkish courts one has to remember that, while they are in the habit of imposing long sentences, Turkish governments frequently proclaim amnesties from which everyone benefits, except those who have committed offences against the forest laws. If you kill a man you can in all probability look forward to a fairly early release; if you cut down a tree you stay inside.

It is a pity that that letter repeats the statement that the law against communism was copied from Mussolini's Italy. Ataturk was quite capable of judging communism for himself and he did not like it. As he always expressed the greatest contempt for Mussolini and disliked what he knew of fascism it is most unlikely that he sought inspiration from Italy. Communism is not the only creed banned by the various Turkish Constitutions: fascism and Islamic fundamentalism are equally prohibited.

I remain etc,
DIANA SPEARMAN,
7 Lord North Street, SW1.
December 15.

From Dr David Seddon

Sir, In your second leader (of December 14) you rightly observe, regarding the continuing violation of human rights in Turkey, that "over time, the true character of an ally's government will inevitably be judged by its ability to do away with and do without repressive methods". Opposite this, you publish a letter, signed by several eminent British academics, deploring the savage sentences passed last month on a group of Turkish intellectuals, academics, artists and members of the liberal professions who have been prominent in the Turkish peace movement.

On November 14, 23 members of the banned Turkish Peace Association were sentenced to terms of imprisonment with hard labour of between five and eight years, for "crimes of thought", simply for belonging to the equivalent of the CND and for working for peace.

The letter signed by Professor Worsley and colleagues mentioned by name a number of those involved. May I, in addition, express deep concern about the plight of Mr Orhan Apaydin, President of the Istanbul Bar Association, Mr Mahmut Dikerdem, President of the Turkish Peace Association and former Ambassador to India, and Mr Orhan Taylan, a well-known artist, who was tortured while in prison prior to the trial in order to force a "confession" of membership of the banned Turkish Communist Party.

Torture, "thought crimes", appalling sentences for involvement in the peace movement – these are only some of the Orwellian features of the contemporary Turkish state; others include martial law, massive control of the press, the banning of so-called "left" trade unions and the imprisonment of their leadership, and vicious attempts to eliminate the Kurdish identity.

Throughout 1984 those who value democratic and human rights and peace will be watching and judging Mr Ozal's new "civilian" government and looking for an indication of a genuine return to democracy. One such indication would be the freeing of the imprisoned members of the Turkish Peace Association.

Yours etc,
DAVID SEDDON,
School of Development Studies,
University of East Anglia,
Norwich,
Norfolk.
December 15.

Conventional query

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, The American film called *The Day After* – not nearly horrible enough in my own opinion – was in any case less significant than the subsequent discussion, more especially the contribution of Robert McNamara. At last the real issues are becoming clear to the average intelligent citizen.

Your excellent correspondent, Ronald Butt, is a case in point. He acknowledges (feature, December 15) the strength of the McNamara argument in favour of "No first use", already for some years advanced by Lord Carver, Lord Zuckerman and myself, but perceives in it a flaw. Supposing, he says, the Russians attacked and were not successful owing to a, in itself desirable, reinforcement of Western "conventional" defences, would they not, in order to avoid "defeat" themselves, threaten the West with nuclear weapons, the use of which the West had already "renounced"?

But the flaw is in this suggestion. There is no question, except in the CND, of the West's "renouncing" nuclear weapons: only the *first use* of such weapons.

The Russians, in the event contemplated, could not so threaten the West unless they were themselves prepared to accept nuclear annihilation. Nor would the Soviet Government, in such an event, necessarily have to accept "defeat". There would no doubt be some sort of negotiated settlement. It is even more evident that, should the West successfully rearm, there would be no war of any kind.

It is quite true, on the other hand, that if the Russians attacked with "conventional" weapons only and were successful, as they might well be if the West is really unable to strengthen its "conventional" defences, the West, having renounced "first use", could not seek to redress the situation by nuclear means and might therefore have to accept "defeat". But to any rational mind such "defeat" would be preferable to national annihilation. For "defeat" might, one day, be rectified: annihilation is for ever.

The hope, however, is that the Soviet Government will never launch an offensive which, even if "successful", might result in the breakup of its "empire". For they can hardly benefit from having a ruined and potentially rebellious Europe on their hands. In the past the Russians, I believe, have never directly attacked any major Power: they have simply profited by the weakness of their neighbours.

Yours truly,
GLADWYN,
House of Lords.

Sauce for goose

From Mr R. A. Leeson

Sir, Today (leading article, December 10) you write: "There will be a need to prevent any recurrence of a situation where the underlying Argentine feeling on the Falklands can be exploited for domestic political purposes leading to a knee-jerk reaction with tragic consequences."

For "Argentine" also read "British"?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. LEESON,
18 McKenzie Road,
Broxbourne,
Hertfordshire.
December 10.

Church and remarriage

From Mr R. W. Mott

Sir, The Venerable Dr Daunton-Fear asks (December 13) why the Church of England has not given greater consideration to granting decrees of nullity of marriage.

Nullity means that there was no marriage, for lack of consent or consummation. How can the Church declare null a marriage that has lasted for 10 years, that has produced children and that everybody, including the Church, recognised as a marriage at the time? How can the Church explain to children of the marriage that it has discovered, rather late in the day, that their parents were not married at all?

Moreover these subtleties would mean taking the matter out of the hands of priests and bishops and handing it over to lawyers, who would find a new source of income in dressing up divorce as nullity. Let us stick to the present proposals.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. MOTT,
136 Lakenheath,
Southgate, N14.
December 13.

From the Reverend Graham Buston

Sir, Dr Daunton-Fear (December 13) is perhaps too optimistic. The experience of the Roman Church in assessing nullity after legal divorce shows that the procedure can be far from simple, as a study of Mgr Ralph Brown's book, *Marriage Annulment*, makes clear; nor is it inexpensive. Yet a less thorough investigation would probably be unacceptable to Anglicans.

On the other hand, if Dr Daunton-Fear wishes to rely on legal annulment pronounced by the courts, he will find the scope of the present law of nullity in England to be too limited to cover more than a small proportion of the cases anticipated by the Synod.

"Option G" remains the only practical compromise open to the Anglican Church.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BUSTON,
40 Cadogan Place, SW1.
December 14.

Freezing point

From Mr Lewis Massey

Sir, In his report ("Antifreeze test failed by garages", December 13) Robin Young says that the West Midlands County Council has been unable to find a satisfactory method of testing antifreeze.

For those who have a domestic refrigerator with a deep-freeze compartment, or a freezer, the test is very simple: Take out a couple of teaspoonfuls of coolant from the car radiator or expansion tank, pour it on a saucer, and leave it for an hour or so in the freezer or deep-freeze compartment.

If the antifreeze mixture is correct, the liquid will not freeze solid but will turn mushy, even at a temperature of −20°C, far lower than is likely to be encountered in a normal British winter.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS MASSEY,
20 Orchard Rise,
Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.
December 13.

Sweet music

From Dr Christopher Field

Sir, Reviewing a performance of *Messiah* (December 7) your music critic, Mr Noël Goodwin, refers, in a provocative passing sally, to "the whining strings of baroque scholarship". I shall be grateful if you will permit me, on behalf of all those who have tried to combine science and practice in this field, to rebut this ill-aimed slur.

To G. B. Doni, writing shortly before Monteverdi's death, the violin was an instrument of unsurpassed expressive range which represented "in the hands of a master the sweetness of the lute, suavity of the viol, majesty of the harp, force of the trumpet, vivacity of the fife, sadness of the flute and pathos of the cornett". Dryden, in an ode later set by Handel himself, celebrated the power of the band of violins to convey "depth of pain, and height of passion", while the French lexicographer Brossard characterized the violin's sound as "naturally very bright and very gay, which makes it ideal for animating dance steps".

One of Leopold Mozart's first lessons to pupils was to practise producing "a forthright and manly tone". Descriptions of leading seventeenth and eighteenth-century violinists, against which any modern recreation of "authentic" baroque technique and style must be measured, speak frequently of the sweetness, tenderness, serenity, elegance, spirit, agility and fire of their playing.

It was for such men that Nicolo Amati, Stainer and Stradivari made their instruments, all of which, it must not be forgotten, were originally "baroque" violins played with "baroque" bows. But I know of no evidence at all that points to "whining" as either a characteristic or an ideal.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FIELD,
Department of Music,
The University,
St Andrews,
Fife.
December 12.

Keeping the peace

From Mr Michael Adams

Sir, In 1956, when it was eager to bring down the government of President Nasser in Egypt, the British Government made the mistake of collaborating with Israel. The United States, under the sensible leadership of President Eisenhower, immediately dissociated itself from Britain and was able afterwards to do something to repair the damage.

Today, President Reagan has made the same mistake of enlisting Israel's help in his attempt to browbeat President Assad of Syria into submission; and this is bound to make it harder for any Arab government to cooperate with the West.

Our own Government was not consulted before the Americans began to bomb Syrian positions in the Lebanon, although the safety of our troops was placed in jeopardy by this foolish initiative. There is no reason why the British, French and Italian forces, which were sent to Beirut to carry out a peace-keeping task, should now share the consequences – which are likely to be disastrous – of President Reagan's misconceived policies.

It is useful to remember that, as far as the United States is concerned, the Middle East is not an issue of foreign politics; it is an important factor in the domestic political equation, especially in the run-up to a presidential election. Mr Reagan and his associates are less concerned with keeping the peace than with winning votes and campaign contributions. There is no good reason for the rest of us to lend him our support in this direction.

Britain's objective should be to reconcile the parties in the Lebanon and then to work for an equitable solution of his Palestine problem. In both contexts we should take care to dissociate ourselves from the partisan policies of the United States.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
Middle East International,
21 Collingham Road, SW5.
December 18.

Threat in El Salvador

From Mr John Weatherill

Sir, In his letter of December 12 Sir Alfred Sherman conveys the impression that Nicaragua is fuelling the guerilla action against the purportedly democratic regime in El Salvador. Another report from David De Voss, in *Time* magazine (December 12) based in San Salvador, conflicts dramatically with Sir Alfred's.

According to De Voss, the El Salvador guerillas not only occupy strongholds throughout the country but for the past year have relied almost totally upon captured US weapons, not upon arms smuggled in from Nicaragua, or from Cuba or the Soviet Union. The Salvador Army, it seems, lacks the will to fight the guerillas.

Another important point that should not be allowed to escape is that Washington, even as it supplies arms to El Salvador, continues to be uncomfortable about the regime's appalling human rights record. You, sir, not too infrequently, have published reports of massacres allegedly committed by the Salvadorean Army, the most recent, I believe, on November 18 of 118 men, women and children carried out by a "crack American-trained Salvadorean Army battalion", from which a child escaped to give witness.

Added to such events, and according to El Salvador's Human Rights Commission, the notorious "death squads" have killed an estimated 40,000 people during the past four years. The State Department has assembled lists of suspected death squad leaders which include officers in the Salvador National Guard and treasury police. Of this situation Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid".

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua". From the record one might again ask of the situations in these countries: State Kenneth Dam warned just last week that "right-wing repression only fosters the kind of revolution that rightists want to avoid".

Sir Alfred Sherman claims that "the source of tension in Central America comes from the Marxist-Leninist regime in Nicaragua." From the record one might again ask of the situations in these countries: is Marxism-Leninism the cause, or the effect?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL,
Wylye Head,
Kilmington,
Warminster,
Wiltshire.

London's buildings

From Professor Maurice Barley and others

Sir, The Historic Buildings Division of the GLC is unique and it is fortunate for Britain that London should have built up, since 1901, an organization which responds so effectively to problems arising from the impact of the present on the remains of the past.

The division constitutes the nearest approach in Britain to an integrated response to those problems. It contains, within one open office, the whole range of skills and information, from a works section responsible for the 1,000 historic buildings and monuments owned by the GLC to architects, historians, archaeologists, draughtsmen and photographers who contribute to the *Survey of London* and advise on everday development control within the planning system.

Those familiar with the same problems in provincial cities know that it is to some extent a matter of accidents of personality or local interests whether sites and buildings are adequately investigated and recorded, whether or not they are preserved. There are still great variations between parts of the country arising from our system of local government and reliance in part on voluntary activity.

The special powers of the GLC enable it to provide a comprehensive and well informed response to proposals for change.

The *Survey of London*, for which the GLC is entirely responsible, is universally acclaimed. Furthermore, the latest volume in the *Buildings of England* series, *London 2: South*, about which your reviewer, Michael Ratcliffe (*The Times*, November 30) was properly enthusiastic, could not have been remotely as good as it is without access to archives of the division and to the knowledge which its staff has acquired.

The division must be kept together, without dilution of its powers or dispersal of its staff.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE BARLEY,
ALEC CLIFTON-TAYLOR,
PETER ADDYMAN,
JOHN ASHDOWN,
60 Park Road,
Chilwell,
Nottingham.
December 7.

Saved from the gong

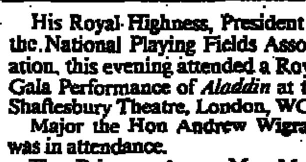
From Mr Charles Fyffe

Sir, In his review in *The Times* of December 8, Sandy Wilson writes: "a 'gongster' being a policeman who, at that time, used to chase speeding motorists beating, if you can believe it, a gong."

No, I can't, because he didn't. To be "gonged" meant you had been pursued by a police car that sounded a bell; mechanically sounded, not manually.

In fact the bell was used until replaced by the horrible French-style donkey bray now in use.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FYFFE,
52 Holmdale Road, NW6.
December 4.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 20: The Lord MacLehose of Beoch had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

His Excellency the Hon Charles H. Price II was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr Michael Calingaert (Minister for Economic Affairs), Mr Turner L. Oyloe (Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs), Mr Philip W. Arnold (Counsellor for Public Affairs), Mr Alan D. Wolfe (Counsellor for Programme Co-ordination), Mr David C. Fields (Counsellor for Administrative Affairs), Mr Robert W. Maule (Counsellor for Consular Affairs), Mr Richard L. McCormack (Counsellor for Political Affairs) and Colonel Alan B. Renshaw (Defence Attaché).

Mrs Price had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Dr Jürgen Ruhfus and Frau Ruhfus were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Federal Republic of Germany to the Court of St James's.

Sir Andrew Huxley had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

Sir Michael Tippett had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, this morning attended a Special General Meeting of the Association at the National Westminster Tower, London, EC2.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President of the National Playing Fields Association, this evening attended a Royal Gala Performance of *Aladdin* at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, WC2.

Major the Hon Andrew Wigram was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this evening attended the Christmas Celebrations in Westminster Cathedral.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 20: Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 20: The Prince of Wales this morning visited JEL Energy Conservation Services Ltd at Stockport, Greater Manchester, and opened the new Low Energy Factory.

His Royal Highness, President, the Royal Jubilee Trusts and President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon visited the West Indian Sports, Social Club and Community Centre, Manchester.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, this evening attended a Carol Concert in aid of the Fund, at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Their Royal Highnesses, attended by Mr David Roycroft and Mrs George West, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Princess of Wales this afternoon opened the new Extra Care Centre at the Abbeyfield Downing House, Swinbourne Grove, Withington, Manchester.

Mrs George West was in attendance.

December 20: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at *The Observer* Victorian Christmas Concert in aid of The Children's Society at Royal Albert Hall, London.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland and Mrs Michael Wigley were in attendance.

The Duke of Kent will lunch with the Baltic Exchange on March 22.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Judge Rodney Bax, QC, will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel on Thursday, January 26, 1984, at 5pm.

Sir Graham and Lady Rowlandson will not be sending Christmas cards this year and would like to take this opportunity of wishing all their friends a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Armitage, 77; Sir Arthur Benson, 76; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, 71; Lord Caccia, 78; Mrs Chris Evert Lloyd, 29; Vice-Admiral Sir Raymond Hawkins, 74; Lord Justice Lawton, 72; Mr David McFall, 64; Sir Leslie H. Martin, 83; Mr W. M. M. Milligan, 76; Mr Merlin Minshall, 77; the Most Rev John A. Murphy, 78; Sir John Nabarro, 68; Sir Kenneth O'Connor, 87; Mr Anthony Powell, 78; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, 62; Mr Walter Spanghero, 40; Mr Greville Starkey, 44; Mr Peter Tinniswood, 47; Mr James Tye, 62; Dr Kurt Waldheim, 65.

Dinner

Turners' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was the guest of honour at a livery dinner given in Apothecaries' Hall last night by the Master and Wardens of the Turners' Company. The Master, Mr G. M. Reeves, presided and other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Mr H. S. Axton and Mr J. E. Borrett, Upper Warden. Among those present were the Master Cutler, the Master of the Apothecaries' Society, the President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and the Director-General of REME.

Emanuel School

The governing body of Emanuel School has appointed Mr P. F. Thomson, Surmaster of St Paul's School, to be Headmaster of Emanuel School from September 1, 1984, on the retirement of the present headmaster, Mr P. Hendry.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Dr T. P. McLean, aged 53, Director-General of Air Weapons and Electronic Systems under Controller Aircraft in MoD (Procurement Executive) HQ in London, to be Director, Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, Fort Halstead, from January 1 in succession to Dr F. H. Panton, who is retiring.

Mr Brian Oatley, aged 48, deputy education officer for Kent, to be county education officer in succession to Mr William Petty.

Legal

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, to be leader of the North-eastern Circuit from January 1.

London School of Economics and Political Science

Undergraduate entrance scholarships, 1983:
[illegible]



Palace mission: Mr Charles Price II, the new US Ambassador, leaving for Buckingham Palace yesterday with his wife Carol to present his letters of credence to the Queen (Photograph: John Voos).

Art sales have boom season

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's, Christies, and Phillips, the three London based international art auctioneers, have had a boom autumn season. Their turnover for the four months to December was up 74 per cent, 50 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

The autumn leaves Sotheby's ahead of the field again with a turnover of £141m. Christie's crept ahead this time last year when Sotheby's was in trouble but is in second place now at £128m, while Phillips has beaten all its own records to sell £42m worth of artistic wares.

Sotheby's figures should be seen more as a recovery than a major advance. In dollars they are back to the turnover of their record 1980 season and in sterling they have comfortably topped it.

Christie's has been advancing strongly over the intervening three years and has nearly closed the gap with Sotheby's, long the market leader.

Mr John Floyd, chairman of Christie's, said yesterday that the art market had progressively gathered pace suring 1983, finishing with the remarkable autumn result. The prospects looked good for 1984, he said, with some outstanding sales coming.

He drew attention to a January Old Master picture sale in New York, which contains a group of 10 still lifes from the collection of Paul Mellon and two Turnrs that are expected to mke more than £1m each.

New York has contributed the largest increase in turnover to Christie's autumn figures. Sales there made 70 per cent more than in 1982 which had itself been sharply up on 1981. A year ago Christie's was picking up business from Sotheby's in New York; it seems to have held on to its higher volume of turover and made further advances this year.

It is not possible to tell how Sotheby's New York sales compared this autumn since the new owner, Mr Alfred Taubman, has decided that turnover figures will not in future be issued for different geographic areas. He says he wishes to emphasize the international nature of the art market. Results in different geographic centres fluctuate wildly.

The autumn has been notable for the highly competitive bidding on rare or very high-quality items. That meant that Phillips's slice of the market was more tricky than that of the big two. "It is clear from the results that we have been attracting a larger share of the high-priced items", Phillips's chairman said.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H. Cary
and Miss A. Cowell
The marriage has been arranged between Hal, son of Mr and Mrs Cary, of Wans, Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Anna, elder daughter of Mr Peter Cowell, of Longham, Norfolk, and Lady Neville, of Edingthorpe, Norfolk.

Mr D. F. Aitken
and Miss A. J. Ivers
The engagement is announced between Duncan Flockhart, son of Mr and Mrs W. F. Aitken, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Ann Janet, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. A. Ivers, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr M. H. J. Child
and Miss K. L. Nash
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of the late Archdeacon of Sudbury and Mrs Kenneth Child, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Katharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. L. Nash, of Broadstone, Dorset.

Mr J. Dean
and Miss G. Fyffe
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. E. Dean, of Mylor Bridge, Cornwall, and Georgina, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Fyffe, of St Ninians, Stirling.

Mr C. Fludgate
and Miss A. Gilmartin
The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr J. Fludgate, Hunstanton, and of Mrs L. Fludgate, Surbiton, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Gilmartin, British High Commission, Singapore.

Mr D. J. Gregory
and Miss S. C. Swallow
The engagement is announced between David John, younger son of Mr and Mrs F. W. Gregory, of Orpington, and Susan Catherine, youngest daughter of Mrs R. Swallow and the late Mr Leslie Edward Swallow, of Hawkhurst.

Mr R. C. Holmes
and Miss L. Sanderson
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr Clifford Holmes and the late Mrs Myra Holmes, of Thornton, Bradford, and Lynn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Sanderson, of Edinburgh.

Mr L. E. Fanshawe
and Miss A. H. Stockley
The engagement is announced between Lionel, son of Captain and Mrs Tom Fanshawe, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stockley, both of Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr D. W. Hatto.
and Miss L. G. M. Neate
The engagement is announced between David William, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. W. Hatto., of Bolton, and Lizette Margaret, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs L. H. Neate, of Leeds.

The Rev J. T. Henderson
and Miss H. G. Lees
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs I. T. Henderson, of Chailey, Sussex, and Heather, daughter of Dr and Mrs W. C. Lees, of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr J. C. Hoare
and Miss M. A. Pegge
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs M. G. Hoare, of Staines, Middlesex, and Madeleine Antoinette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D. C. Pegge, of Hale Barns, Cheshire.

Mr P. H. F. Jordan
and Miss A. H. Garioch
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mrs C. A. Bridgwater and the late Mr R. F. Jordan, and stepson of Mr C. A. Bridgwater, of Worthing, Sussex, and Annabel, daughter of Mrs J. E. Harrison and the late Mr I. F. Garioch and stepdaughter of Mr J. E. Harrison, of Rudgwick, Sussex.

Major J. H. L. Lloyd, RA
and Captain P. A. Smith, QARANC
The engagement is announced between John Hugh Laviers Lloyd, Royal Artillery, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs J. L. Lloyd, of Whitley Bay, and Patricia Ann, younger daughter of the late Mr T. Smith and of Mrs Bridget Smith, of Little Waltham, Essex.

Mr C. R. Millington
and Miss E. R. Danielson
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr J. R. Millington, of Glebe House, Kilby, Leicestershire, and Mrs B. L. Furber, of Wheler Lodge, Welford, Northamptonshire, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J. G. Danielson, and niece of Mr and Mrs C. R. Butterworth, of Wayside, Shoreham, Kent.

Mr C. N. Philpott, RAF,
and Miss C. J. Boys-Stones
The engagement is announced between Christopher Neil, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Lance Philpott, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and Claire Judith, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Boys-Stones, of Brampton, Cumbria.

Mr M. S. Sharma
and Miss J. A. Seagrove
The engagement is announced between Madhav Sitaram Sharma, only son of the late Mr and Mrs K. S. Sitaram, of India, and Jennifer Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. C. Seagrove, of Groombridge, Sussex.

Mr B. E. Sweetman
and Miss V. K. Carne
The engagement is announced between Brian, son of Mrs I. B. Sweetman and the late Mr F. E. Sweetman, formerly of Enfield, Middlesex, and Victoria, daughter of Dr and Mrs Stuart Carne, of Kensington, London.

Mr R. D. Wills
and Miss C. M. Lewis
The engagement is announced between Roger David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Arnold Wills, of Hale, Cheshire, and Catherine Martha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Cecil Lewis, of Geneva, Switzerland.

Baron Dr C. D. H. Wrede of Elimä
and Miss S. J. Vinnicombe
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Baron Casper Wrede of Elimä, of Yarpole, Herefordshire, and Baroness Dilys Wrede of Elimä, of Ham, Surrey, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Vinnicombe, of Emsworth, Hampshire.

Marriages

Capt J. L. Gill
and Miss A. F. Leacock
The marriage took place quietly on December 13 of Captain Johnny Gill, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs L. Gill, of Chastleton, Gloucestershire, and Miss Annabel Leacock younger daughter of Mr A. G. Leacock, CBE, FRCS, of Barbados, and Mrs W. E. Skipwith, of Itchen Stoke, Hampshire.

Count I. B. Romanoz-Korben
and Miss A. F. O'Neill
The marriage took place recently in London between Count Izzy Romanoz-Korben and Miss Annie O'Neill.

Science report

New ways of raising animal yields

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The use of hormones to promote growth in farm animals destined for slaughter, rather than for breeding purposes, has become widespread on the assumption that there is no reproductive risk involved. But it still leaves a certain uneasiness in the public mind, because of the possible presence of residues in carcases sent for human consumption.

Scientists at the Agricultural and Food Research Council's Meat Research Institute, at Langford, near Bristol, believe they have made significant steps in overcoming this problem. The key lies in a substance called somatostatin, which was first found in the base of the brain, and which is thought to exert an important control over the release of natural hormones.

As such it is seen as a growth-retarding agent, but research at the institute has shown that when an animal is given a preparation containing further quantities of somatostatin, it can be induced to produce antibodies which will effectively remove it from the blood.

Use of this technique has resulted in increases in both growth and meat conversion efficency in sheep, and there seems no reason why the principle shuld not be applicable to other animals.

Another programme, by the council's Animal Breeding Research Organization, has been studying the possibility of increasing the prolificacy, or the incidence of twin births, in sheep and cattle.

Genetic selection, even when aided by superovulation and embryo transfer, is a slow process and would, it is said, be expected to increase the incidence of twinning by no more than 8 per cent every 10 years.

The organization believes, however, that prolificacy could be improved by so-called passive immunization, which would involve artificially restraining the effects of the negative hormones which counter the stimulatory hormones from the pituitary gland.

Ever-increasing milk production from dairy cattle, and the corresponding need to reduce surplus, is likely to lead to a long-term decrease in the number and size of dairy herds. Beef supplies are overwhelmingly dependent on dairy herds, so an increase in fecundity would be one way of maintaining the numbers of beef calves.

OBITUARY

BILL BRANDT
Contribution to British photography

Bill Brandt, who died in London yesterday after a short illness, was possibly the first British photographer to think of himself unselfconsciously as an artist, and was certainly, by the example of his own work, one of the most important forces in persuading critics and public to see the photographer's role in the same light.

He was born in 1905, and began taking photographs seriously in the mid-1920s: a recent show of his portrait photographs at the National Portrait Gallery – in itself a sure sign of the standing he had achieved – included a long-forgotten portrait of Ezra Pound taken when the photographer was only 23.

At first, to all appearance, he was a photographic reporter, like many others active in the 1930s heyday of *Picture Post* and other pictorial magazines.

Most of his photographs have some clear social context, and people still remember the images from his 1936 book *The English at Home* showing the poor surviving, the rich at play, and someitmes, as in the famous picture of two housemaids in full dress standing by an elaborately-laid dinner table, the two worlds meeting.

But he knew already that there was more to his photography than the precise reporter's notation of reality. His background was much more international than that of most of his contemporaries: he spent important formative years in Paris, and was influenced by the work of Man Ray as well as Atget.

He was also aware of the latest developments in avant-garde cinema, and the feeling one gets from many of his most apparently realistic pictures that something lies beyound the scene, a mysterious, surreal dimension, is not coincidental. All the same, the prime thrust of his work long remained documentary, very much in sympathy with his French contemporaries Brassî and Cartier-Bress on – though he was confident enough to send in one of his photographs, of a mannequin in a flea-market, for publication in the semi-surrealist art magazine *Minotaure* in 1934.

In 1938 he had his first one-man show of photographs, organized in Paris by Arts et Metiers Graphiques. With the war he found himself working for the Ministry of Information making survey of London air-raid shelters, and also produced some of his most humane and moving pictures of Londoners in the blitz.

The end of this phase was marked by the publication of his book *Camera in London in 1948*: by that time he was already turning the subject matter more towards landscape, architecture and the nude, as well as returning with renewed vigorous and unmatched perception to the portrait. As he did so, his attitude to his earlier work subtly changed: whereas in the orginal prints effects were luminously graded, he came to take an increasingly harsh view – aesthetically, at any rate – and his later prints from early negatives were violently contrasted plays of very black blacks against very white white.

His newer photographs had from the start this same rather harsh, unyielding quality: in the 1950s and after he found more and more overt expression for his surrealist sympathies in weirdly composed beach scenes, with or without nudes, and some very bizarre interiors with his models curiously transformed into half-birds or almost unrecognisably abstracted.

He remained active almost until the last, and in recent years, as the grand old man of British photography, had seen his work rise in price and public esteem and receive extensive showings in museums and art galleries, as the ascension of photography into the ranks of accepted arts, which he had so much earlier predicted, came to pass.

He remained remarkably unaffected by the fame and the idolisation of his juniors: quietly confident of what he wanted to do and his ability to do it, he assumed the mantle of guru with practised grace. And indeed, who could doubt his right to do so; his work and his hitory spoke for themselves.

His wife survives him.

GRIGORI ALEXANDROV

Grigori Alexandrov, assistant to Eisenstein on the famous Soviet films of the 1920s and later a director, has died at the age of 80.

He trained as an actor and acrobat in his home town of Yekaterinburg (now Sverdlovsk), where he was born in 1903, and entertained the troops on the eastern front during the First World War before moving to Moscow. He joined the Proletcult Theatre as an actor and stage manager and there made the acquaintance of Sergei Eisenstein, who was one of the theatre's directors.

When Eisenstein made his first film, *Strike*, in 1924, Alexandrov worked closely with him, on both script and direction, and their collaboration continued on *The Battleship Potemkin*, and *The General Line*. On the last two films Alexandrov was credited as co-director and his contribution to all four was substantial.

At the end of the 1920s Alexandrov accompanied Eisenstein and the cameraman, Tissé, on a trip to western Europe to study film technique and while in France Alexandrov and Tissé produced a short experimental film, *Romance Sentimentale*, which made bold use of the new medium of sound.

The trio then moved to Hollywood but two projects, an adaptation of Dreiser's *An American Tragedy* and *Sutter's Gold*, came to nothing and they next tried Mexico, where the novelist Upton Sinclair had helped to set up an ambitious study of the life and culture of that country. Many thousands of feet of film were shot but Eisenstein was never able to work on the footage, which became *Que Viva México*. An official version, edited by Alexandrov, was not completed until 1979.

After their return to Russia the two men went their separate ways, Eisenstein to a series of bitter clashes with the authorities which hastened his early death. Alexandrov into solo directing. His films were generally less distinguished than those of his former colleague and were politically uncontroversial.

During the 1930s, in contrast to the prevailing creed of socialist realism, he directed a series of Hollywood-influenced musicals, including *Jazz Comedy* (1934), with a score by Shostakovich, *Circus* and *Volga-Volga*. The films were enormously popular both in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in eastern Europe and were reputed to have made Alexandrov a rouble millionaire.

The leading lady in each case was one of the stars of the Soviet cinema, Lyubov Orlova, and she became Alexandrov's second wife. He was previously married to the actress Anna Sten, who was lured over to Hollywood by Sam Goldwyn. During the Second World War Alexandrov worked mostly in documentary and in 1949 he was responsible for *Meeting on the Elbe*, a propaganda piece about the Cold War.

He continued directing, though, infrequently, until 1973 and among his later films were a study of the composer, Glinka, and two semi-documantaries on Lenin.

MARY RENAULT

S. H. writes:
It was a pity that your obituary of Mary Renault contained no reference to her two most recent novels, *The Praise Singer* (1978), a splendid evocation of the tyrannical courts of Polykrates of Samos and Pisistratid Athens, or *Funeral Games* (1981) which deals with the struggles of the successors of Alexander.

Neither book is vitiated by any cranky matriarchal theories of the kind to which your obituary takes exception (in *Funeral Games* Olympias is a powerful figure, but then so she was in reality). Nor is *The Mask of Apollo* (1966), which is set in Sicily around the time of Plato's visits.

More generally, the obituary suggests at more than one point that "educated" readers, or readers who know Greek, take a low view of Mary Renault's work. I have not found this to be so; the most distinguished Greek historian and epigraphist in Oxford has described *Fire from Heaven*, which the obituary mentions without comment, as the best book on Philip II of Macedon; admittedly that was before the most recent spate of Philip biographies. And I have heard a professor of ancient history say that *The Last of the Wine* was a more admirable treatment of the Peloponnesian War than any modern academic account.

In print, Richard Jenkyns, in his *Victorians and Ancient Greece*, compares Mary Renault to her advantage with the nineteenth-century historical novelists: "most of her books," he writes "are narrated in the first person by a frank, confiding voice describing – as we realize with a sense of shock – the most extraordinary behaviour as though it were the most natural thing in the world".

If Mary Renault's achievement is to be belittled, it should not be by reference to any supposed consensus of contempt among professional students of ancient Greek history or literature.

SIR JOHN HUNTER

Sir John Hunter, a leading figure in British shipbuilding for 20 years before nationalisation in 1977, died at his home in Northumberland on December 19. He was 71.

A grandson of the founder of the Swan Hunter shipyard on the Tyne, he was chairman of what became the largest grouping in British shipbuilding, the Swan Hunter Group, and headed it in forceful style during the 1960s and 1970s to nationalization, to which he was strongly opposed.

Afterwards, with substantial compensation, he formed an industrial holding group with interests in ship repair at home and abroad, and general engineering, which he chaired until retirement in 1979.

Bluff and of powerful physique and personality, Hunter emerged as a dominant figure in an industry that tended to spawn such people.

He had his career as an apprentice at the Swan Hunter yard in 1930 after schooling at Oundle; he then studied at Cambridge and Durham before continuing at the Tyne and Clyde yards of the family firm to become a director at 33 and chairman and managing director at 45.

He was also active in industry affairs, becoming chairman of the North-East Coast Shiprepairers' Association, the Tyne Shiprepairers Association, the Shipbuilding Employers Federation and the British Employers Federation.

He was a member of the NEDC and of the British Railways Board, and a freeman of the City of London and of the Borough of Wallsend.

He married firstly Joanne Winifred Wilkinson by whom he had a son: and secondly Sybil Malfroy by whom he had a son.

He was appointed CBE in 1960 and knight in 1964.

MR THOMAS BLACKWELL

Mr Thomas Francis Blackwell, MBE, DL, who died at his home, Langham Hall, in Suffolk on December 18, aged 71, was one of racing's senior administrators and a well known owner-breeder.

He served as a steward of the Jockey Club from 1964 to 1966 and was twice deputy senior steward during the period 1967 to 1969 and 1973-75. He was one of the Jockey Club members on the Horserace Betting Levy Board from 1976 to 1978.

Among the many good horses that he owned and bred were Brolly, Silver Cloud, Catherine Wheel, Richmond Fair and Vielle, who won the Lancashire Oaks and Nassau Stakes in 1980 and who also finished second to Bireme in the Oaks at Epsom the same year.

One of his most significant winners was Rich And Rare, who won the Cheveley Park Stakes in 1957. From the proceeds of the sale of this filly he founded the Langham Hall stud. Jack Jarvis, Geoffrey Barling and more recently Bruce Hobbs were his trainers.

Blackwell was educated at Harrow and Magdalene College, Cambridge. He served in the Coldstream Guards from 1940-45. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk, a governor of Harrow from 1975-81. He acted as chairman of the Colne Valley Water Company from 1963-83, and was chairman of Turf Newspapers Limited. He was also a member of the London Stock Exchange and of Lloyds.

He was a first class shot and a keen sportsman, who was elected captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1963, three years before his younger brother, John.

Tom Blackwell was fiercely loyal to those he liked and was never happier than when surrounded by young people at a party. He is survived by a son, Charles, and a daughter Caroline.

Latest wills

Mrs Olwen Scott **Insall**, Cerrigydrudion, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £57,658 net. She left the military medals awarded to her late husband, including his Victoria Cross and Military Cross, to the RAF Museum at Hendon.

Sir Charles **Empson**, of Ickham, Canterbury, Ambassador to Chile from 1955 to 1958, left £112,632 net.

Miss Margaret Menzies **Bair**, of Cheltenham, left estate £368,300 net. Among other bequests she left £70,000 to the Church of Scotland Committee on Social Responsibility, for use in connexion with Eventide Homes.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid).

Barrett, Miss Olive Kathleen, of Rustington, West Sussex £203,943
Berman, Mr Robert William, of Welwyn Garden City £209,420
Brackett, Mr Frederick John Newbegin, of Rusthall, Kent £231,755
Day, Mr Austin William, of Little Waltham, Essex £228,310
Lockwood, Mr Lloyd Clarence Victory, of Tottenham, north London £223,104
Phillips, Mrs Lavinia, of Marhamchurch, Cornwall £245,443
Rainthorpe, Mr Percy of Faldingworth, Lincs. £282,468
Willetts, Mr Sidney Harold of Halesowen, West Midlands, solicitor £305,622

University news

Bristol
Professor Peter Haggett, professor of urban and regional geography, is to be Vice-Chancellor in the period between the retirement of the present vice-chancellor, Sir Alec Merrison, at the end of September 1984 and 1 September 1985, when the new vice-chancellor, professor John Kingman, takes up his duties.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs David Profumo was christened Alexander James in St Marylebone Parish Church on Saturday, December 17, by the Rev C. K. Hamel-Cooke and the Rev Peter Watkins.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Prudential sets up 'own' London broker

Prudential–Bache Securities, a subsidiary of the Prudential Insurance Company of America, world's biggest insurance company, is setting up its "own" London Stock Excange member firm. The nucleus of it are Mr Ashley Down, head of corporate finance at James Capel one of London's leading stockbroking firms, and his deputy in the same department, Mr Christopher de Boer. Mr Down had expressed a wish some time ago to leave the partnership for personal reasons. Mr de Boer resigned on Monday. "Their going is a disappointment to us," was Capel's comment, "but we still have 63 partners left!"

Prudential-Bache will own 29 per cent of the new firm the Stock Exchange describes as "a joint venture." That is the maximum permitted under Stock Exchange rules but Prudential-Boche has an option to acquire the balance if and when the rules are changed. In the interim most of any profits will accrue to the American "junior" partner.

The new firm will offer UK and Continental research and corporate finance services to British institutions and companies and to Prudential-Bache clients wherever they may be. To that end the new firm will recruit among other firms, bearing in mind also that the *maximum it can take* in captive commissions from Prudential-Bache is 20 per cent of the total.

Mr Jim Barton, head of Prudential-Bache international and commodity divisions in New York said the new firm would be recruiting 25 to 30 staff almost immediately, who would be offered the normal profit-sharing and bonus schemes. It would be capitalized, initially, at £500,000 although substantially more would be made available as the business grows. It would be incorporated as a limited corporate member.

Britain's leading financial institutions, have some £300 billion under management of which 37.5 *billions* is thought to be invested abroad. "Obviously as our research capabilities grow," Mr Barton went on, "we hope to attract substantial business, both going into Britain and coming out. Hopefully a lot of it."

Prudential-Bache traditionally had built its own businesses rather than bought into existing companies. "We could not wait for the rules to change to allow us a majority holding. We have hired professional expertise, at least we believe so, to build a new company brick-by-brick."

What many leading London brokers had feared, the poaching of senior staff by foreign rivals, has arrived quicker than expected.

A company with the Prudential's strength behind it should not be long in establishing itself as a power in London. Ironically the Prudential took over and restored Bache, Halsey Stewart in 1981 after Wall Street had undergone the same form of restructuring now beginning in London. It hopes that it has set an example for other American companies

By the same token Prudential-Bache's initiative may accelerate decisions among British bankers, brokers and other financial institutions who are either huddled together in discussions about possible umbilical ties or carefully examining their navels for directions which way to jump. The Bank of England, in its new role as Stock Exchange monitor as well as its traditional role as the City's Keeper, is naturally concerned. In the December *Quarterly Bulletin* the Bank sees scope for a greater efficiency.

The Bank accepts that "foreign participation" in London will increase, but "it is important that this should be matched by the international involvement of strong groupings of British-owned institutions, which will no doubt emerge".

The Bank has shown no sign so far of postive discrimination in favour of domestic parties in the reshuffles taking place. But it is relieved that two of the five important stockjobbers have already opted for home links.

Akroyd with S. G. Warburg, Smith Brothers with NM Rothschild. The Bank's priorities include ensuring adequate investor protection and a market in which it can sell government debt. The name to conjure with in the gilt-edged market is Wedd Durlacher. It will surely announce a new partner soon, and it must be all Lombard Street to a China orange that the preferred institution will be British, not foreign.

Dog-days lose their bite

The stock market was predicting as much a year ago and official statistics are now proving the point: company profits are recovering sharply from the dogdays of the recession. The Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin* records that profits rose by nearly 50 per cent between the first halves of 1981 (the pit of the recession) and 1983. Figures from the Central Statistical Office yesterday suggest that this trend is still accelerating: industrial and commercial company profits were nearly one-third higher in the third quarter compared with a year earlier. If you strip out North Sea operations the recovery is even more impressive. Profits rose by 35 per cent in real terms between the first half of 1981 and the first half of this year, after a similar fall in the previous three years.

It would be wrong to infer from these comparisons that everything is coming up roses in the corporate sector. For a start a 35 per cent rise in profits after a 35 per cent fall does not leave the sector where it started five years ago. It is still well short of the starting line.

Companies have been benefiting from the rise in output while big gains in productivity mainly due to shedding people, have helped to keep down unit labour costs. That said, the real rate of profitability, probably back over 6 per cent compared with 2-3 per cent in early 1981, is still low; "lower not only than in the 1960s but also than in 1978", and according the Bank, "well below the level necessary for a healthy rate of investment".

The Bank nonetheless is quite optimistic about an imminent recovery in investment because of industry's improved profitability and much stronger financial position – company liquidity's now as strong as at almost any time in the last 10 years.

Lloyds spends £23m to lift stake in Royal Bank

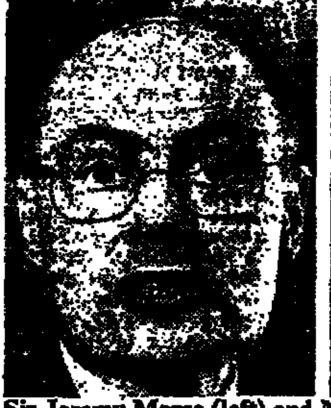
By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank has spent £23m on increasing its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland Group from 16.4 per cent to 21.3 per cent, but denied any plans to make a bid. Lloyds said yesterday that the move was aimed at strengthening its position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house.

Lloyds, whose chairman is Sir Jeremy Morse, owns 60.3 per cent of the finance house at present and has long wanted to buy Royal Bank's 39.3 per cent stake. The two banks have been unable to agree a deal and Mr Brian Pitman, group chief executive of Lloyds, said it was worried that a third party would enter the fray.

"You can see that if a third party did come in and acquire a part of the Royal Bank of Scotland, this could give us some difficulty in acquiring the remaining part of Lloyds & Scottish. We feel that a larger holding in Royal Bank would help to secure our position," he said.

Although Lloyds approached Royal Bank with a view of taking it over before Royal Bank agreed to merge with Standard Chartered in 1981, Mr Pitman was adamant that a bid was not on the cards, although he did not rule out the possibility of buying more shares.





Sir Jeremy Morse (left) and Mr Sidney Procter: no talks on Lloyds & Scottish

Royal Bank's 1981 merger plans with Standard Chartered were thwarted when the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank put in a £500m bid and both takeovers were subsequently blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

However, the shake-up in financial markets and suspicion that the British authorities might now look more kindly on a takeover has helped to revive bid speculation recently.

This was one of the reasons Lloyds moved and its action fuelled speculation yesterday. Royal Bank's shares jumped 28p to a year's high of 202p.

Royal Bank has consistently denied any knowledge of a predator and been unable to shed any light on the sharp movements in its share price in recent months.

Mr Sidney Procter, chief executive of Royal Bank, said yesterday there were no talks going on about Lloyds & Scottish with Lloyds Bank. "They have always wanted Lloyds & Scottish. We hae made no secret of the fact that if we could agree on a price we would sell," he said. He added that Lloyds & Scottish must be looking for improved profits and Royal Bank would not want to sell at the bottom.

The finance house's profits tumbled from a peak of £29.2m pretax in the year to September 30 1981 to £10.8m the following year. But in the first half of 1982-83 profits picked up from £6.5m to £10.6m.

Lloyds won control of Lloyds & Scottish in March 1981 when it launched a bid valuing the group at £240m, immediately after Standard Chartered and Royal Bank announced merger terms.

Lloyds rapidly took its existing stake above 50 per cent through market purchases and subsequently agreed terms to buy Royal Bank's stake once the Standard Chartered merger *went through. But the deal fell* through.

Lloyds paid 205p a share for the 11.25 million shares it bought in Royal Bank to take its stake up to 21.3 per cent.

Index close to 770

The equity market continued to scale fresh heights yesterday, with investors' demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT 30-share Index closed at its high for the day, 7.7 up at a record 769.8.

Benefiting from the thin conditions were Cadbury Schweppes, up 8p at 117p, Distillers 6p to 227p, GKN 6p to 177p, Imperial Group 3p to 137p, Lucas 7p to 168p, TI Group 6p to 170p and Vickers 6p to 128. Some swift footwork was needed by the jobbers to keep themselves out of trouble as the lack of sellers continued *to cause them problems.*

But with the Christmas celebrations continuing to dominate proceedings, turnover generally remained low. Second-line stocks showed few signs of support, except in the case of bid situations and trading results.

Gilts sported rises of up to £⅝ in longs, helped by the continued rally in the value of sterling against the dollar. By the close, it showed a rise of 5 points to $1.4190.

Analysts remained hopeful that the equity market can maintain its momentum in the New Year, but few of the big City institutions appear anxious to open new positions until after Christmas.

Market report, page 17

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 769.8 up 7.7
FT Gilts: *82.70 up 0.08*
FT All Share: 464.87 up 1.35
Bargains: 21,120
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.1 up 0.02 **New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest)** 1245.73 up 1.12
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,627.93 up 81.74
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 858.53 up 1.28
Amsterdam: 155.1 down 0.3
Sydney: AO Index 757.8 up 2.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1021.2 up 2.9
Brussels: General Index 134.79 up 0.31
Paris: CAC Index 149.2 up 0.1

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4190 up 5pts
Index 81.9 down 0.2
DM 3.9275 down 0.0050
FrF 11.9850 down 0.01
Yen *333.25 down 2.0*
Dollar
Index 130.8 down 0.4
DM 2.7678 down 0.0052
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4195
Dollar DM 2.7660
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.574539
SDR £0.731832

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8⅞
3 month interbank 9⁹⁄₁₆–9⁷⁄₁₆
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10⁵⁄₁₆–10⁷⁄₁₆
3 month DM 6⁷⁄₁₆–6⁵⁄₁₆
3 month Fr F 13⅞–13⅝
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9⅜
Treasury long bond 100¾–100⅞
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling *Export Finance Scheme IV* Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $375.40 pm $378.10
close $377.50–378.25 (£266–266.50)
New York latest: $377.75
Krugerrand (per coin):*
$389-390.50 (£274.25–275.25)
Sovereigns* (new):
$88.25–89.25 (£62.25–63).
*Excludes VAT

SE names lay members

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Stock Exchange yesterday announced the names of the first five lay members in its history. The five outsiders – two industrialists, a merchant *banker, an academic and* a pension fund manager – have been appointed as part of the wide-ranging package of reforms agreed with the Government earlier this year in the controversial compromise on the future of the exchange.

The five are Mr Robin Adam, deputy chairman of BP; Mr Alan Clements, finance director of ICI; Mr John Hull, deputy chairman of Schroders; *Mr Hugh Jenkins, director* general of investments at the National Coal Board pension fund; and Professor Robert Jack, a partner of solicitors McGrigor Donald and part-time professor of mercantile law at Glasgow University.

As lay members, the five men will become full members of the Stock Exchange's council, attending the fortnightly council meetings and contributing to the exchange's policy discussions and decisions. Under the agreement thrashed out between the Government, the Bank of England and the chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodsion, the lay members are intended to provide independent outside advice and experience similar to that provided in industry by non-executive directors

The lay members will also make up the Stock Exchange's membership appeal committee.

Mr Hull, a former director general of the Takeover Panel, *said last night that the lay* members included a number of big users of the stock market.

Mr Adam, 60, is retiring shortly from BP and will be taking over as chairman of MEPC. Mr Clements has been at ICI since 1956. Prof Jack, a specialist in company law, is 55 and a lay member of the Council for the Securities Industry. Mr Jenkins, 50, is one of the best known pension fund *managers in the City*, and has been with the coal board since 1963.

Japanese joint deal for Oxford Instruments

By Andrew Cornelius

Oxford Instruments, which makes a super magnet forming the core of body scanner technology, yesterday announced a joint venture to make its magnets in Japan.

It is to set up a manufacturing company with Furukawa Electric, in Japan, and Far East sales of about £300m are expected in the next decade.

Dr Peter williams, group managing director at Oxford, which was launched on the London stock market in October, said that the Japanese market for the magnets, would match *the US market by 1986.*

The company, Furukawa-Oxford Technology, Dr Williams said, would manufacture and deliver its first magnets in Japan by the middle of next year.

Supply contracts have been negotiated with a leading *Japanese company.*

Toshiba, Hitachi and Shimadzu are the three leading companies which have won approval to sell the scanners in Japan.

Dr Williams said that Oxford has no competition to supply the magnets, which make up *about one-third of the final* £700,000 cost of each scanner.

However, he said, other companies were bound to try to develop their own magnet technology and that the arrangement with a Japanese producer would make it easier to sell the Oxford products.

Production will be centred at Furukawa's site at Chiba, 40 miles from Tokyo. Eventually, 100 people will be employed by the company

When shares in Oxford Instruments were offered on the stock market the sales were oversubscribed 9.2 times, mak*ing it one of the most popular* issues this year.

The company developed its world-beating technology from humble beginnings when it was set up on a part-time basis by Dr Martin Wood, a Cambridge engineering graduate, 25 years ago.

Its most famous product is the magnet used in the new body scanners, which have made X-ray medical diagnosis obsolete.

*Other products include in*struments and systems for monitoring patients, for materials analysis, and control of industrial processes.

Courtaulds plans paint buy-out

By Jeremy Warner

Courtaulds is planning to buy out the publicly held minority shareholding in its 88 per cent owned subsidiary, International Paint, the big industrial paints and coverings group, in a deal worth £14.5m.

Negotiations between the two companies and their advisers on a fair price are at an advanced stage and an announcement is expected this week, Courtaulds, the textiles group, is expected to bid for the 9.2 million shares which are publicly held with its own shares.

The stock market appears to have got wind of the buy-out. A halt was called to dealings in International Paints shares at 161p yesterday morning after their price had begun to move rapidly upwards in heavy trading.

Just two years ago, the stock market value of International Paint was *as big as that of* Courtaulds as a whole and it was regarded as the jewel in the crown of the ailing textiles group.

Since then, however, the fortunes of Courtaulds *have* improved dramatically under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Hogg and although International Paint has remained a highly profitable company, it has suffered from the lower demand worldwide for industrial paint.

A spokesman for Hill Samuel, which is advising Courtaulds, said the buy-out would resolve a long standing anomoly. "There are bound to be differences between the requirements of minority shareholders and the parent company. To own 100 per cent of International Paint will give Courtaulds more flexibility in deploying the resources of the group," he said.

International Paint is being advised by S G Warburg.

Rolls agrees £20m diesel sell-off

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The £20m cash deal for the sale of the diesel engine business of the Rolls-Royce car company to Massey-Ferguson, the troubled tractor group, was confirmed yesterday.

The agreement in principle calls for £4.2m of the purchase price to be paid over 24 months in four instalments. The book value of the Shrewsbury-based diesel division is £31m and the business made a trading profit last year before interest of £1.7m.

Rolls-Royce diesels will become part of Massey's Perkins Engines Group of Peterborough. The combined group will have a range of engines from 30hp to 1,200hp.

In a joint statement, Mr David Plastow, the managing director and chief executive of Vickers, the Rolls parent, and Mr Victor Rice, chairman and chief executive of Canadian-based Massey, said: "This is the *most important strategic event* in the recent history of the British diesel engine industry and lays a solid foundation for its future development."

The new owners said little, however, to allay fears among the Shrewsbury workforce of *more than 1,000 that more jobs* might be lost

Massey said: "The prospects for the two (diesel) companies are good with a strong potential for the future. However, we are still suffering from the worst trading circumstances in living memory and we must continue to make cash savings as and when they present themselves. As a result, the headcount figures must be under continuing review."

The Shrewsbury operation is to be called Perkins but initially the Rolls-Royce name will continue to be used on the engines. Roll's diesel sales last year were worth £60.9m compared with £294m for Perkins, but Rolls has a firm grip on the big lorry sector with almost 40 per cent of British-built trucks exceeding 28 tonnes gross vehicle weight fitted with a Rolls six-cylinder Eagle series unit.

Rolls is also a major Ministry of Defence supplier, although the deal did not need government approval, and provides *the engine for the* Challenger main battle tank and the new MCV 80 armoured vehicle.

Posgate decision soon

By Our Financial Staff

A decision will be taken in *the new year over whether to* bring charges against Mr Ian Posgate and four former directors of the Alexander Howden insurance group after an investigation by the Lloyd's of London authorities.

Mr Ian Davison, chief executive of the Lloyd's market, confirmed yesterday that the report on the Howden affair had been received by the Lloyd's investigations committee. The committee will decide early *next year whether to bring* charges against Mr Posgate, former star underwriter with the *Howden group*, and four former Howden directors.

Mr Davison also said that charges had been agreed in connection with a separate investigation into the Brooks & Dooley syndicates and that the disciplinary committee would begin proceedins next year.

In a separate statement Mr Davison announced that he would resign as chairman of the accounting standards committee in July to concentrate on the Lloyd's job.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£7.5m rights issue by Carlton

Carlton Communications, one of Britain's leading independent television production companies, yesterday announced a one-for-five rights issue to raise £7.5m net at 300p a share.

At that price the issue means an 85p *discount to the market's* ruling level. Money from the issue will help Carlton to explore actively the American market, which has more than 1,000 television stations and accounts for 50 per cent of the world television market.

Carlton also announced a £2.7m *profit for* the year compared with £1.7m last year. Mr Michael Green, chairman, said: "All divisions showed good growth."

● Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange were slightly higher in early trading with the Dow Jones industrial *average up 1.5 points* at 1,246. About 8 million shares had been traded.

● Senior partners of Conrad Ritblat, the big commercial estate company, are in negotiations to buy out the major part of the 50 per cent shareholding owned by British *Land and* a deal could be struck by March. British Land yesterday declared its first interim dividend in more than a decade and reported a 6 per cent rise in half year pretax *profits to £3.6m*

Investor's Notebook, page 16

● Rank Xerox has been released by the Government from some *undertakings relating* to the sale of plain paper copiers imposed after a 1976 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report found some Rank Xerox trading practices were against the public interest. Since then a big growth in competition in copiers has eroded Rank's earlier dominance of the market.

Sarasin rescue 'should go to Dunlop board'

By Wayne Lintott

Samuel Montagu, merchant bank advisers to Pegi Malaysia Berhad, the group that holds just under 7 per cent of Dunlop, said yesterday that the rescue proposals from Sarasin International Securities for Dunlop should, in the first instance, be made to the board of Dunlop.

Sarasin had said that its £40m rescue plan depended on the support of the Pegi group. Sarasin proposes to inject £40m cash into a new company, which would then make an all share offer for Dunlop.

The *statement* said that Pegi fully supported Sir Maurice Hodgson, the chairman of Dunlop.

But the Pegi representatives, in London for *this week's* Dunlop board meeting, made no comment on whether they would meet with the Sarasin representatives to discuss the proposals.

Sarasin has had informal talks with Sir Maurice over the proposals, but no statement was issued on the conclusions.

Samuel Montagu also clarified Pegi's position over the now defunct plans for Pegi to buy out Dunlop's Malaysian interests.

The bankers said that when the £55m deal to acquire Dunlop's Malaysian Industries failed last Friday it was *mutually* agreed that the proposed transactions should not proceed.

"Pegi wishes to make clear that there are at present no debts outstanding *from* Pegi to Dunlop.

Pattern of foreign investment in Britain is changing

EEC multinationals look overseas

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has been warned in a *new* study of multinational investment strategies that it would be unjustified to devote substantial resources towards attracting *European investment into* Britain over the next decade.

All the signs, say the study, are that higher levels of fixed, direct investment from EEC countries will be directed to non-European destinations; and that Continental European investment in Britain largely is aimed at supplying this market, rather than acting as a supply point for wider market areas.

The investigation*, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office, the Welsh Office and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, is *the work of Professor* Neil Hood and Mr Stephen Youngm project directors at Strathclyde University, and two project reseachers, Dr Alan Reeves and Mrs Margaret Milner.

Their 389-page report includes a detailed survey of 140 *British of Irish*-based affiliates of American or European multinational enterprises.

The investment that is likely to come to Britain in the next decade may *increasingly be in* a different form, with greater emphasis on joint ventures, licensing and other cooperative forms of involvement, says the report.

The most substantial opportunity, say the authors, lies with Japan: "The size of this opportunity *and the speed* with which it develops is, however, dependent upon trends in trade policy and in exchange rates."

Since Japanese direct investment in developed countries is a relatively recent phenomenon, the report finds difficulty in predicting the form it will take, even if a substantial flow towards Europe begins.

"Elsewhere, Japanese investment has shown a propensity towards joint ventures, but this is largely in developing countries

"Other low-risk strategies *may be expected in Japanese* investment into Europe in the light of international production experience within many Japanese corporations.

Elsewhere, the report says that British agencies should conduct a comprehensive study of the relative effectiveness of *the British inward investment*

A study is important, it says, since a growing proportion of world trade and technological innovation is associated with the direct investment process.

"Irrespective of the desirable effort placed on small-firm development in the next decade in the United Kingdom, inward direct investment will remain critical to the health of manufacturing industry."

The report shows that by last year, foreign multinational companies had a direct capital stake of almost £20,800m in Britain's *private* sector.

Investment by overseas oil companies in the North Sea and by foreign banks has been growing rapidly but manufacturing investment from abroad, which rose considerably in the 1970s, has been slowing down and between 1980 and last year increased only 9.3 per cent to £16,500m.

**Multinational Investment Strategies in the British Isles, HMSO (£15.95).*

Hambros halves Australian stake

Hambros Bank has completed the sale of 50 per cent of its Australian subsidiary, Hambro Australia, in accordance with the assurances it gave the Australian Government five years ago when it set up the company.

Hambro Australia has increased in value from A$2m (£1.25m) in 1978 to A$24m.

Ansett Transport Industries, the Australian independent airline, and Repco Corporation, the automotive engineering group, have each acquired 20 per *cent of the company*. The Australian management had acquired 10 per cent with, Hambros London retaining 50 per cent.

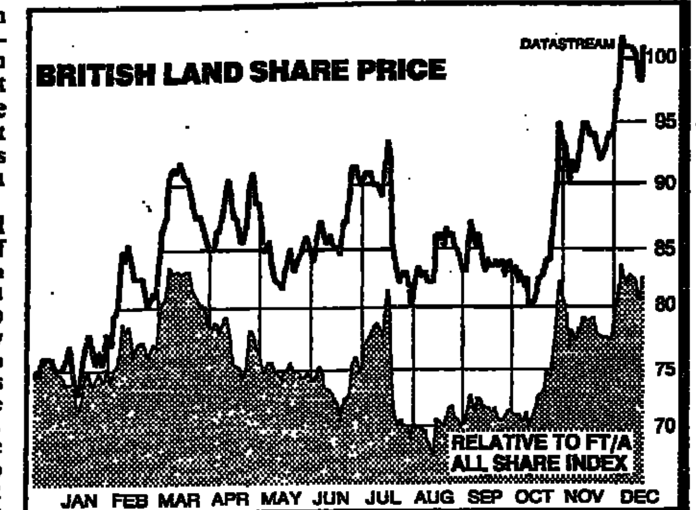
Ansett and Repco will each appoint two directors to the board of Hambro Australia and are each injecting A$4m of new capital. The strengthening of the company will allow it to broaden existing operations and pursue new opportunities which are under investigation.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Surprise payout fails to lift British Land shares

Mr John Ritblat's British Land the property and undusrial group, has an interim dividend. It is a significant event for the company because it is the first half-year payout that British Land shareholders have received in more than a decade.

Assuming a same again final of 1.25p is paid, the interim of 0.5p implies a 40 per cent rise in the full year payout. But British Landshare price failed to respond to this news yesterday and closed unchanged at 101p and the stock market remains as uncertain as ever about the direction the company is taking.



Half year pretax profits were up 6 per cent from £3.4m to £3.6m after a rise before interest of 16 per cent. The company has been spending heavily so the sharp rise in bank borrowing costs is not surprising.

In the United States, Growth Realty, which has now changed its name to British Land of America, made a net gain in the quarter year to the end of September after the reorganization started 18 months ago when British Land acquired a minority interest in the company. British Land has also spent heavily on improving the length of leaseholds on its properties.

Profits from the industrial division were a little better at about £1.1m during the half year and gross rental income was up £1m at £10.1m.

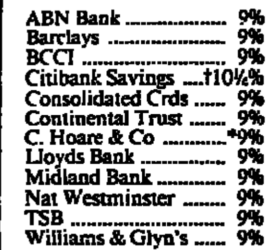
The profit from property and dealing in securities was roughly the same overall, with the fall in returns from trading offset by better housebuilding and property trading profits.

The group continues to rely heavily on these dealing profits as a source of revenue. Last year they accounted for about 42 per cent of group pretax profits and are likely to be only a little lower this time.

The exposure to dealing revenue is just one of the worrying features at British Land. Another is the apparent lack of direction at the group.

The company has recently entered ventures as hotel building with Comfort Hotels, a new unit trusts group with Mr Brian Banks, partly funding a Finsbury Square development and taking a 15 per cent stake in Dares Estates.

Until some strategy is put forward to explain these and other moves, the shares will continue to look vulnerable, despite trading at a discount to net assets of 39 per cent, which is well above the sector average.



Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%: £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

Stenhouse

Shareholders of Stenhouse Holdings have until tomorrow afternoon to decide on the merits of one of the City's most peculiar takeover attempts for many years.

The £53m bid for Stenhouse by Reed Stenhouse its 49 per cent-owned Canadian subsidiary, has been an embarrassment to the boards of both companies, particularly for those with seats in both boardrooms.

Both companies agree that a merger is the only sensible answer to the problems posed by the peculiar relationship between the two, but they cannot agree on sensible terms.

Stenhouse Holdings has, for many years, been little more than a small investment management office in Glasgow watching over the Reed Stenhouse investment and holdings in Noble Grossart, the merchant bank, and Stenhouse Syndicates, the Lloyd's insurance broking firm.

Reed Stenhouse, in contrast, is a thriving Canadian insurance business which has been hampered in its development by its status as a subsidiary of Stenhouse Holdings.

Despite the attractions of the Reed Stenhouse offer of one Reed Stenhouse ordinary share, plus 20p cash, for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares, the Stenhouse Holdings board refuses to let the Reed board get away with a deal which favours Canadian shareholders

They argue that the offer provides substantial benefits to Reed Stenhouse shareholders at the expense of Stenhouse Holdings shareholders.

While the Stenhouse board is prepared to accept on halfway house which would be of benefit to both sets of shareholders it will not accept a situation whereby the earnings of Stenhouse increased by 11 per cent.

Reed Stenhouse says that Stenhouse Holdings is unable to offer any alternative to the Reed Stenhouse bid and that no serious interest has emerged from another potential bidder.

Early indications are that the initial offer from Reed Stenhouse will fail, winning support from 40 per cent of shareholders at best.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Cifer, the Melksham, Wiltshire, designer and manufacturer of microcomputers and microprocessor-based computer video terminals, which joined the USM in June, reports pretax profits of £1.352m for the year to September 30, 1983 (1982: £851,000). At the time of issuing its prospectus, Cifer forecast profit before tax would not be less than £1.35m. As declared in the prospectus, the company does not intend recommending a dividend, but still expects to pay one for the current year.

Sheafbank Property Trust has agreed to buy Gradeland Securities, a Manchester property company. Price: 4.54 million new ordinary shares. Gradeland's net assets of £727,000 at March 31. After takeover and proposed rights issue, sellers of Gradeland will hold 40.2 per cent of Sheafbank's enlarged ordinary capital. Sheafbank proposes to reduce its issued capital from £1.2m, divided into 25p shares, to £482,000 in 10p shares. Board is conditionally proposing a rights issue of two new ordinaries for every five shares held at 16p each, and will raise about £308,000 before expenses.

Batleys of Yorkshire: Half-year to October 29, 1983, compared with half-year to September 30, 1982. Figures in £000s. Group turnover 77,306 (60,568). Group profit 529 (519) after all charges, interest 71 (15), depreciation 176 (151) and tax 77 (140). EPS – basic 6.19p (6.07p) and fully diluted 4.38p (4.3p). Interim dividend unchanged at 0.5p.

Memory Computer: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in Irish £000s. Turnover 4,835 (3,541). Pretax profit 510 (340). Interim payment 1p net (nil last time).

Scotts Restaurant: Half-year to June 30, 1983. Turnover £1.56m, (£1.37m). Pretax profit £115,000 (£76,000).

Real Time Control: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. No interim payment. Directors intend to recommend a net dividend of 2p for full year. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,754 (1,363). Pretax profit 415 (407).

Belgrave (Blackheath): Half-year to July 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,317 (1,567). Profit before tax 18 (loss 48).

Alliance Investment: Half-year to Oct. 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Franked income 452 (396). Unfranked income 523 (456). Management expenses and interest 563 (272). Pretax profit 412 (580). Interim payment effectively unchanged at 0.5p a share.

Economics Commentary by Tim Congdon

Triumph of the old fogeys

Old fogeyism is not a fashionable basis for the conduct of economic policy. It may be defined as the selection of policy rules because they appeal to basic moral intuitions, not because they have intellectual plausibility. Other "isms", like monetarism and Keynesianism, may be very much in contention, but old fogeyism is definitely out.

The late 1950s was perhaps the last time that American policy was determined by old fogeyite principles. Whatever else he has been accused of, no one has suggested that President Eisenhower was intellectually sophisticated. He chose policies not just because smart-alec advisers had persuaded him that they were clever, but also because they seemed honest and right.

His attitude towards fiscal policy illustrates the point effectively. At a news conference on March 4, 1959, this is how he answered a question on why he attached so much importance to eliminating the budget deficit:-

"Well, remember, balancing the budget is not of interest merely to ourselves. Our friends, the nations with whom we trade, the nations that are increasingly using the dollar as a medium of exchange, they are interested in the knowledge that we can pay our bills. Now, as quickly as we can get back to a pay-as-you-go basis, the freer the world will feel about this whole affair."

Invisibles surplus rescued US current account

This is not a model of economic reasoning. President Eisenhower was clearly ignorant about the subtle potentialities of later doctrines, whether supply-side, neo-Keynesian or more forthrightly quackish. He liked pay-as-you-go because it conformed to notions of elementary decency, not least decency to America's friends.

In the late 1950s university macroeconomics courses were dominated by ideas such as fiscal fine-tuning and "functional finance", which involved the systematic variation of budget deficits to counter the business cycle. If an economist had given a lecture with a justification of balanced budgets as naive as the President's, his professional colleagues would have greeted it with derision.

The USA's trade and current account position, 1975-82

All figs in $ billion

	Merchandise trade balance	Invisibles balance	of which Investment income	Current account
1975	9.0	9.3	12.8	18.3
1976	−9.3	13.6	16.9	4.4
1977	−30.9	16.8	18.0	−14.1
1978	−33.8	19.0	20.6	−14.8
1979	−27.3	26.8	31.2	−0.5
1980	−25.3	26.8	29.9	1.5
1981	−27.9	32.4	33.0	4.5
1982	−36.3	28.2	28.7	−8.1

Source: US Department of Commerce

Today, President Eisenhower looks increasingly wise and fiscal fine-tuning, with its many derivatives, increasingly silly. High-powered economic theoreticians are now trying to develop analytically rigorous demonstrations that deficits have very unfavourable long-run effects on the economy. Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisers, has produced some of his original work in this area.

But President Reagan is not interested. A budget deficit of more than $170 billion is in prospect for the 1984 fiscal year, with perhaps bigger numbers in later years. Despite this, he has made no promises about restoring budgetary equilibrium. Indeed, he has given few signs that he considers the deficit a serious problem.

His indifference in not altogether surprising. When a country runs a large budget deficit it also normally has a large balance-of-payments deficit. The payments deficit than causes currency depreciation and higher inflation.

The President's budget deficit has been associated, as the conventional logic would imply, with a serious deterioration in the American balance of payment. But it has also coincided with a phase of remarkable dollar strenght on the foreign exchanges. The dollar's behaviour has been helpful for the control of American inflation rather than the reverse.

The dollar's strength is generally regarded as a puzzle, but there is agreement that heavy capital inflows to the US have been an essential support. Investment money is being channelled towards the US, financing the current account deficit and enabling the American people to enjoy an armaments boom, an import boom and a consumption boom without paying the bill.

If this continues until the presidential election next year president Reagan has nothing to worry about. From a political standpoint, the combination of an overvalued currency and a vast budget deficit is ideal.

It should hardly need comment. Let alone emphasis, that the present stance of American financial policy is unsustainable. One method of showing this is to extrapolate the present budget deficit by adding on the inevitable increase in interest payments on the national debt.

The United States government is in a situation, well-known to bankrupts and usurers, where it is borrowing in order to pay interest on its existing debt

But there is an alternative approach. It is to examine the structure of the United States balance of payments in recent years and to project its evolution.

The current account position as a whole was satisfactory between 1975 and 1982. But several types of transaction contributed to this result. The salient feature is that, while the trade position was sliding steadily for eight years, the current account was rescued by a rising surplus on invisibles. In particular, there was a strong improvement in investment income. This reflected the profits and interest the United States received from the substantial body of foreign assets it built up in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. Without these receipts there would have been a current account deficit of about $200 billion over the 1975-82 period instead of an approximate balance.

In 1983, the trade gap has widened sharply. The trade deficit is likely to total $70 billion and the current account deficit almost $40 billion.

The disturbing possibility now emerging is that the surplus on investment income will be eliminated and replaced by a deficit. The reason is simple. Financial policy has become so deviant and the current account deficit has reached such proportions that foreigners are accumulating many more assets in the United States than Americans are accumulating abroad.

The foreigners expect an income on their investments. If the current account deficit continues, the United States will eventually become a net debtor to other countries.

By then the transparency of President Reagan's fiscal programme will be obvious to all. The capital flows in the dollar-denominated assets have been largely motivated by the common perception of the United States as a safe haven in a troubled world. But, if it were to become a significant net debtor, perceptions would change.

The American government would be in an awkward spot. Once the capital inflows stopped, the budget deficit would have to be financed wholly from internal sources instead of to a large extent from abroad. It is difficult to see how, in view of the inadequacy of domestic savings flows, this could be done without monetiation of debt – and so return to rapid inflation.

When President Eisenhower wrote his memoirs in 1965 he felt he should respond to complaints that his fiscal policy had been too restrictive. In his view, "critics overlooked the *inflationary psychology which* prevailed during the mid-fifties and which I thought it necessary to defeat. In 1957, for example, consumer prices were rising at an unacceptably high annual rate of 3.2 per cent. Ten years of this could devalue the dollar more than 30 per cent while if the rate accelerated, we would have had an entirely intolerable situation on our hands".

Eisenhower looks wiser and fiscal fine-tuning silly

He continued: "The anti-inflation battle is never-ending, though I fear that in 1959 the public was apathetic, at least uninformed, regarding this issue. This attitude caused me to recall a laconic comment of Winston Churchill when someone asked him during World War Two what the allies were fighting for: 'If we stop', he replied, 'you will find out'."

The author is economics partner at stockbroker L Messel & Co.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

1982/83 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Virani sells Norfolk stake

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

Hopes that the **Virani Group**, the privately owned hotel and property company, was planning to use the **Norfolk Capital Group**, chaired by Lady Joseph the widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, as the back door for a full public quote have been dashed.

Yesterday it was announced th Virani had sold its entire stake, amounting to 10.5 per cent othe equity, through Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Broker Williams de Broe placed the 1.39 million shares for an undisclosed sum less than a month after Mr Nazmu Virani the Ugandan Asian owner, emerged as a major shareholder in Norfolk.

It now looks as thoiugh Mr Virani is focusing his interest on Mr Eric Morley's **Belhaven Brewery** in which he has bought a 24 per cent stake.

Virani recently paid £4.6m for 21 British Rail hotels and seemed an ideal match for Norfolk, which owns a further 10 hotels, including the Royal Court in Sloane Square and the Norfolk Hotel in Kensington.

Last night, shares of Norfolk, in which Lady Joseph owns about 6 million shares, or 31 per cent of the total, closed unchanged at 39p.

The rest of the equity market maintained its record breaking run with renewed demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT index closed 7.7 up at a new high of 769.8.

There is a growing belief among the institutions that MY Dart, the sports equipment and packaging group, may soon be the target of a bid. The shares held steady at 26½p yesterday – just 1½p short of the high. Word is the asset bnacking of 60p a share could attract a bid as high as 50p. Mr Paul Marks, chairman, with nearly 6 per cent of the shares, said: "If we are to be bid for, nobody has told me".

Cadbury Schweppes climbed 8p to 117p still reflecting a bullish circular on food manufacturers from broker ickers da Costa. There were also vague rumours that **Distillers**, 6p higher at 227p, was casting an appreciative eye over **Tate & Lyle**, 8p dearer at 373p.

Only last week a line of 2.75 million shares in Tate & Lyle, believed to be owned by Hanson Trust, were placed in the market with an unnamed buyer.

One of the biggest gains among the top 30 was in **TI Group**, 6p higher at 170p still reflecting the appointment of Mr Ronald Utiger as chairman. This will come as good news for broker Laing & Cruickshank, which has been a buyer of the shares since September. According to Laing, there is still a "lot of recovery potential" left in the shares. For the current year the analysts are looking for pre tax profits of between £16m and £20m followed by £30m to £35m next year after building up bigger market shares for its engineering and domestic product goods.

Oil shares were again weak after fears that world oil prices could soon be set to fall. This follows the decision of two big US refiners to cut the price they are prepared to pay for domestic crude oil by $1.50 a barrel. It will come as little relief to the jobbers, who were forced to widen the spread between the bid and offer price of the five leading oil shares this week resulting in bigger costs for investors. **BP** lost 5p at 388p, **Britoil** 5p at 181p, **Shell** 10p at 548p and **Ultramar** 7p at 597p. **Burmah** was the only big producer to resist the trend, climbing another 5p to 175p on bid speculation.

The renewed flow of money into the coffers of the building societies has focused attention on the private housebuilders. Laing & Cruickshank, the stockbrokers, has taken a shine to Crest Nicholson, which it says has been overlooked by the recent recovery in building shares. The profits slide in the current year has already been discounted and Laing is looking to pretax profits of £8.5m next year against £6.7m in 1982. The shares were unchanged at 97p.

A rise of 5 points in sterling against the dollar to £1.4190 on the foreign exchange continued to breathe new life into gilts. Dealers reported rises of up to £⅜ in longs while at the shorter end the gains were limited to £1/16 where changed.

The Christmas spending spree in the shops was good news for the big retailers where stock shortages added 5p to **Comet Group** at 313p, 2p to **Great Universal Stores 'A'** at 620p, 4p to **H. Samuel** at 133p

News that **Lloyds Bank**, unchanged at 542p, had increased its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland, up 28p at 202p, to 21 per cent helped the rest of the banking sector to small improvements. **Barclays** rose 5p to 492p, **Midland** 5p to 389p and **National Westminster** 5p to 649p.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

[illegible]

MEDIUMS

[illegible]

LONGS

[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

[illegible]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[illegible]

DOLLAR STOCKS

[illegible]

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

[illegible]

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

[illegible]

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A – B

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
144	73	Argyll Grp	142	● +1	6.4	4.5	16.0
493	253	Ash & Lacy	463	-2	25.7	5.6	8.9
291	100	Ass Book	285	..	10.4	3.6	11.9
167¾	114½	Ass Brit Food	142	+2	6.9	4.8	6.3
154	65¾	Ass Dairies	150	+2	3.2	2.1	21.7
79	59	Ass Fisheries	79	..	3.2	4.1	8.6
111	50⅞	Ass Leisure	100	..	5.9	5.9	11.4

[illegible]

C – E

[illegible]

F – H

[illegible]

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
161	91	Gordon & Gotch	118	..	10.7	9.1	11.2
252	144	Granada 'A'	182	+6	8.3	4.6	14.6
366	175	Grand Met PLC	348	..	12.5	3.6	13.4
122	32	Grattan PLC	82	+2	..e	..	27.2
641	433	Gt Univ Stores	625	+2	20.7	3.3	13.8
636	428	Do A	620	+2	20.7	3.3	13.7
146	86	Gripperrods	136	..	6.6	4.9	6.2

[illegible]

I – N

[illegible]

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
167	82	Milletts Leis	126	+1	9.9	7.9	..
137	31	Mining Supplies	37	..	0.1	0.4	..
55	31½	Mitchell Cotts	43½	..	5.2	11.9	9.7
56	17	Moben Grp	25	..	0.4	1.4	7.1
30	17	Modern Eng	20	..	..e	..	..
183	98	Molins	122	+2	11.3	9.3	5.2
147	54	Monk A.	122	+1	8.6	7.0	5.1

[illegible]

O – S

[illegible]

T – Z

1982/83 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
17¼	13⅛	TDK	15⅛	..	9.2	0.6	25.2
182	90	TI Group	170	+6	10.7	6.3	..
166	14	TACE	137	-1	4.3	3.1	46.0
108	34	TSL Therm Synd	38	..	..	..	7.0
26	13	TSW	24	..	1.7	7.1	9.6

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

Sterling: Spot and Forward

[illegible]

Money Market Rates

[illegible]

Other Markets

[illegible]

Dollar Spot Rates

[illegible]

Euro-$ Deposits

[illegible]

Gold

[illegible]

SHIPPING

[illegible]

MINES

[illegible]

OIL

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

PLANTATIONS

[illegible]

MISCELLANEOUS

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

Stoddard is picking itself off the floor

By Vivien Goldsmith

Stoddard Holdings, the troubled Scottish carpet manufacturer, is inching its way towards profitability. It cut pretax losses in the first six months of the year from more than 1m to £397,000.

Mr Gordon Hay, the chairman, said the company could well be trading in the black by the end of the financial year. But the pretax figures would probably still be in the red.

The trading loss for the first half was cut back from £543,000 to £164,000. The group is ahead of the targets set by a three-year recovery plan put into operation by Mr Hay last year.

"We are in front of our timescale, so we are hoping to cut it down to 2.5 years or something of that order," said Mr Hay.

All the factories in the group have increased output to meet higher demand. The rise in borrowings from more than £4m to more than £5m is in anticipation of further rationalization and reorganization. The integration of Stoddard Carpets with Templeton Carpets was completed in October.

The sales forces have been merged, and most of the 180 redundancies announced have been implemented. "The merger with Templeton has been less traumatic than expected," said Mr Hay.

Stoddard has a healthy order book, particularly in the woven and bonded market, but although trends look favourable for the second half, much depends on the final quarter of the financial year.

Lloyds names money market treasurer

Lloyds Bank: Mr David Turner has been appointed treasurer, responsible for the bank's money-market division. He succeeds Mr Albert Agar who has retired.

APPOINTMENTS

Freemans: Mr Anthony Rampton, chairman, will retire after the annual meeting on May 31, next. Mr John Brooman has been made a director from January 1. He will be deputy chairman until taking over Mr Rampton as chairman on June 1, next.

Rothmans International: Mr Jeremy Campbell succeeds Mr Leslie Sarl as secretary from January 1.

Charterhall: Mr Maxwell F. Shepherd and Mr John A. Brimley are being appointed directors from January 1. Mr Julius Levinkind is retiring as a director but will continue as a consultant. Mr Robert C. O. Hellyer becomes secretary. Mr Keith R. Holder is being appointed a director of Charterhall Oil. Mr Alan T. Morton retires from the board of Charterhall Oil after his appointment as operations director of Charterhall Australia, the groups recently acquired Australian listed company.

Haden Young: Mr Derek Gillingham becomes managing director on January 1. He was previously deputy managing director and now succeeds Mr Geoffrey Clarke who is retiring. Mr Ellis Davenport, Mr Tony Northcott, Mr Fred Perryman and Mr Carl Wheldrake, at present regional directors, have been appointed assistant managing directors with special responsibilities for individual operating regions of the company.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £s per tonne;
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton;
Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Jan/Mch	847–49
Apl/Jne	858–59
Jul/Sep	868–70
Oct/Dec	878–80
Jan/Mch	888–90
Apl/Jne	898–901
Jul/Sep	909–15
Vol:	44
SUGAR	
Mch	211.60–212.60
May	220.60–221.40
Aug	228.80–229.20
Oct	235.60–237.00
Dec	243.00–246.00
Mar	259.00–260.00
May	266.00–269.00
COCOA	
Dec	1867–75
Mar	1858–59
May	1844–45
Jly	1828–30
Sep	1808–10
Dec	1780–82
Mar	1776–77
Vol:	6016
COFFEE	
Jan	2033–45
Mar	1968–70
May	1885–87
Jly	1842–48
Sep	1805–06
Nov	1774–79
Jan	1780–54
Vol:	5,068
GAS OIL	
Dec	243.75–0.50
Jan	244.75–0.50
Feb	242.00–.75
Mch	257.75–0.50
Apl	236.00–234.50
May	233.75–233.00
Jne	233.25–232.50
Jly	233.50–233.25
Aug	237.00–231.00
Vol: 2,339	
CRUDE OIL	
Feb	28.20–28.60
Mch	28.06–28.07
Apl	27.98
May	27.79–27.85

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices
Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in pence per troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	978–79
Three months	1004–5.05
T/O	11.950
Tone: Firm.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	961–63
Three months	968–88
T/O	400
Tone: Quiet	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8642–43
Three months	8803–05
T/O:	2148
Tone: Steady.	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8705–10
Three months	8818–20
T.O:	60.
Tone: Quiet.	
LEAD	
Cash	277.5–78
Three months	287.5m88
T/O:	- 6650.
Tone: Tone: Steady.	
ZINC	
Cash	607–08
Three months	622–22.25
T.O:	3300
Tone: Steady.	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	612.5–13.5
Three months	627–28.5
T/O:	25
Tone: Quiet.	
SILVER SMALL	
Three months	630–32
T/O:	Nil.
Tone: Idle.	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1082–83
Three months	1110–10.5
T/O:	4.500
Tone: Barely steady.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3255–65
Three months	3340–45
T/O:	132
Tone: Steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Dec	376.00–379.00
Feb	382.30–382.60
Apl	388.60–389.20
Jun	394.80–395.90
Aug	401.00–402.60
Oct	408.20–409.20
Volume:	201.
Tone: Quiet.	

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES
Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	20	298
Jun84	1	4339
Sept84	–	–
Comment: Improving.		
STERLING		
Mar'84	167	14222
Jun84	64	14242
Sept84	–	14268
Comment: Stable.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	35	3548
Jun84	–	3638
Sept84	–	3683
Comment: Slightly better.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	1	4598
Jun84	–	4666
Sept84	–	–
Comment: Quiet.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	1444	8961
Jun84	129	8929
Sept84	85	8907
Dec84	1	8884
Mar'84	–	8864
Comment: Firmer.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	386	9028
Jun84	112	9010
Sept84	83	8996
Dec84	–	8981
Comment: Slightly stronger.		
GILTS		
Dec84	39	10906
Mar'84	982	10805
Jun84	–	10725
Sept84	–	10715
Dec84	–	10702
Comment: Stable.		

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 20:
GB: Cattle, 97.74p per kg lw (-4.52).
GB: Sheep, 152.13p per kg est d c w (-4.88)
GB: Pigs, 71.91p per kg lw (-6.59).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 34.2 per cent. ave. price 97.04p (-4.49).
Sheep nos. down 49.3 per cent. ave. price 154.04p (-5.20).
Pig nos. down 70.7 per cent. ave. price 69.29p (-8.76).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 4.3 per cent. ave. price 98.99p (-5.17).
Sheep nos. down 24.1 per cent. ave. price 149.26p (-2.74).
Pig nos. down 23.8 per cent. ave. price 82.24p (-0.91).

London Grain Futures Market

Month	Wheat A Close	Wheat B Close	Barley Close
Jan	–	120.10	120.60
Mar	–	123.15	123.25
May	–	126.10	125.05
Jly	–	129.10	–
Sep	115.75	112.85	110.85
Nov	118.65	118.85	113.90

Total lots traded
Wheat A: 3
Wheat B: 362
Barley: 110

WALL STREET

	Dec 19	Dec 16		Dec 19	Dec 16		Dec 19	Dec 16
AMF Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Intrst Bncp	43	[illegible]	Proctor Gamble	[illegible]	[illegible]
ANR	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	24
Allied Chem	53	[illegible]	Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]	Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]	GTE Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Republic Steel	27	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	58
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Metal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rockwell Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Brands	59	[illegible]	Gen Mills	[illegible]	54	Royal Dutch	43	[illegible]
Am Broadcast	54	54	Gen Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]	Safeways	26	[illegible]
Am Can	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Pub Util NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	St Regis Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Cyanamid	[illegible]	48	Gen Tire	38	[illegible]	Santa Fe Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Elec Power	[illegible]	[illegible]	Genesco	[illegible]	[illegible]	SCM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Home	[illegible]	[illegible]	Georgia Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	Schlumberger	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]	Getty Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Scott Paper	[illegible]	30
Am Nat Res	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gillette	[illegible]	[illegible]	Seagram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Standard	[illegible]	31	Goodrich	[illegible]	30	Sears Roebuck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Telephone	[illegible]	[illegible]	Goodyear	[illegible]	[illegible]	Shell Oil	38	[illegible]
Armco Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gould Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Shell Trans	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asarco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Grace	45	[illegible]	Signal Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ashland Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gt Atlfc & Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	Singer	[illegible]	28
Atlntic Richfld	[illegible]	[illegible]	Greyhound	26	[illegible]	Smithkline Beck	56	[illegible]
Avco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Grumman Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sony	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avon Products	25	[illegible]	Gulf Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sth Cal Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bankers Tst NY	45	[illegible]	Gulf & West	[illegible]	[illegible]	Southern Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of America	[illegible]	[illegible]	Heinz H. J.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sperry Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of Boston	40	[illegible]	Hercules	[illegible]	[illegible]	Std Oil Califnia	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	Honeywell	[illegible]	[illegible]	Std Oil Indiana	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beatrice Foods	[illegible]	31	IC Inds	48	[illegible]	Std Oil Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bethlehem Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ingersoll	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sterling Drug	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boeing	48	[illegible]	Inland Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Stevens J. P.	[illegible]	28
Boise Cascade	[illegible]	[illegible]	IBM	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun Comp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borden	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Harvester	[illegible]	[illegible]	Teledyne	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borg Warner	[illegible]	[illegible]	INCO	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tenneco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bristol Myers	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texaco	[illegible]	[illegible]
BP	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Tel Tel	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texas East Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Ind	[illegible]	34	Irving Bank	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texas Inst	[illegible]	136
Burlington Nthn	[illegible]	95	Jewel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]	Texas Utilities	25	[illegible]
Burroughs	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jim Walter	38	[illegible]	Textron	[illegible]	[illegible]
Campbell Soup	[illegible]	[illegible]	Johnson & John	[illegible]	[illegible]	TWA	37	[illegible]
Canadian Pacific	[illegible]	41	Kaiser Alumin	[illegible]	[illegible]	Travelers Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Caterpillar	48	47	Kerr McGee	[illegible]	[illegible]	TRW Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Celanese	[illegible]	[illegible]	Kimberly Clark	[illegible]	93	UAL Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Soya	[illegible]	[illegible]	K Mart	[illegible]	34	Union Carbide	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chase Manhat	[illegible]	[illegible]	Kroger	[illegible]	[illegible]	Union Oil Calif	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chem Bank NY	[illegible]	[illegible]	L.T.V. Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Un Pacific Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chrysler	[illegible]	[illegible]	Litton	[illegible]	[illegible]	Uniroyal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Lockheed	[illegible]	[illegible]	United Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clark Equip	[illegible]	37	Lucky Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	US Industries	[illegible]	16
Coca Cola	[illegible]	[illegible]	Manuf Hanover	[illegible]	[illegible]	US Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colgate	22	[illegible]	Manville Cp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Utd Technol	[illegible]	[illegible]
CBS	65	[illegible]	Mapco	[illegible]	[illegible]	Wachovia	[illegible]	[illegible]
Columbia Gas	34	34	Marine Midland	[illegible]	[illegible]	Warner Comms	[illegible]	[illegible]
Combustion Eng	[illegible]	[illegible]	Martin Marietta	[illegible]	35	Warner Lambert	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comwlth Edison	27	[illegible]	McDonnell	[illegible]	[illegible]	Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mead	[illegible]	[illegible]	Westinghse Elec	53	[illegible]
Cons Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]	Merck	92	[illegible]	Weyerhauser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Power	[illegible]	[illegible]	Minnesota Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]	Whirlpool	48	[illegible]
Continental Grp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mobil Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Woolworth	[illegible]	[illegible]
Control Data	[illegible]	[illegible]	Monsanto	[illegible]	[illegible]	Xerox Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corning Glass	[illegible]	[illegible]	Morgan J. P.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zenith	[illegible]	33
CPC Intnl	[illegible]	[illegible]	Motorola	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Crane	31	[illegible]	NCR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Crocker Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	NL Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]	**Canadian Prices**		
Crown Zeller	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nabisco	[illegible]	41	Abitibi	25	[illegible]
Dart & Kraft	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nat Distillers	[illegible]	[illegible]	Alcan Alumin	47	[illegible]
Deere	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nat Med Ent	[illegible]	[illegible]	Algoma Steel	[illegible]	29
Delta Air	41	[illegible]	Norfolk South	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bell Telephone	[illegible]	31
Detroit Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]	NW Bancorp	31	[illegible]	Cominco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney	[illegible]	[illegible]	Occidental Pet	[illegible]	24	Cons Bathurst	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dow Chemical	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ogden	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gulf Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dresser Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]	Olin Corp	30	[illegible]	Hawker/Sid Can	[illegible]	[illegible]
Duke Power	25	[illegible]	Owens-Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]	Imasco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pacific Gas Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]	Imperial Oil	38	37
Eastern Air	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pan Am	[illegible]	[illegible]	Int Pipe	[illegible]	33
Eastman Kodak	74	[illegible]	Penney J. C.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mass.-Fergsn	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	83	Pennzoil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Royal Trustco	[illegible]	[illegible]
El Paso Nat Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]	Seagram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Esmark	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pfizer	[illegible]	[illegible]	Steel Co	38	[illegible]
Evans P. D.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Phelps Dodge	25	25	Thomson N 'A'	35	[illegible]
Exxon Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Philip Morris	[illegible]	[illegible]	Walker Hiram	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fed Dept Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	Phillips Petrol	[illegible]	[illegible]	WCT	15	15
Firestone	[illegible]	[illegible]	Polaroid	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Fst Chicago	24	24	PPG Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]			

e Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Snode dives into uncharted waters with a somersault and a smile

The magnificent young man on the high-flying 10-metre board

One of the more spectacular moments of British sporting achievement this year took place almost unobserved in the past week. Christopher Snode, possibly our best ever diver, performed for the first time a feat unique in his sport, which may help him gain an Olympic medal.

For a year Snode has been preparing, on a dry board in Florida gymnasium, a front one and half somersault with four twists. It has taken a year, working with a controlling harness on a pulley with his American coach Steve McFarland, to gain the millimetres of refinement and compact control of his body which would permit an extra twist to the three he had already mastered.

The potential danger is almost as great as a trapeze artist's. With the body entering the water at 35 to 40 miles an hour, any rotational error can increase the impact of head or legs to 60 to 70 mph, rupturing an eardrum or dislocating a shoulder.

There were two reasons for returning home for a week from Miami, where he is sponsored primarily by the Sports Aid Foundation: to see his parents before they went away on holiday and to utilize the compressed air cushion available at the Crystal Palace diving pool in overcoming the psychological barrier of his first "wet" attempt from over 30 feet.

Snode: crazy type of sanity

The crucial factor is for the diver to reduce his physical size as much as possible because the centrifugal force of each twist tends to throw the limbs outwards. It took professional circus acrobats 30 years to perfect the quadruple trapeze somersaults.

"It took me three hours to get psyched up for the attempt, for something no one has ever seen before," Snode said. "It is a strange feeling at the back of the 'tower', before the run-up, you feel vulnerable when you can the wind rushing past your ears and then you are tumbling and turning, finally trying to get your hands together before you hit the water like a cyclist running into a wall.

"When I'd done it there was an incredible feeling. I was shaking, there were tears in my eyes, yet it was as if I had breached a dam. I know, now, I can do it, that I can begin practising it regularly, and that maybe it will push me up into the 9s for the marking in Los Angeles, where all those in the final will be sure of 8s."

In the World Student Games in Edmonton last summer a Russian diver became the first to die in competition after hitting his head on the board in the middle of a reverse three and a half somersault from the tower: closeness to the board, as with the bullfighter, is part of the refinement. On the same day Snode struck his head in Innsbruck, performing a reverse two and a half somersault pike.

He once broke both wrists when the water thrust his hands against the top of his skull. Yet he smiles; though he thinks diving "needs a bit of bottle", he denies that it is dangerous and offers somebody else's maxim – "it needs a crazy type of sanity".

Snode in a don't-forget-the-diver pose at Crystal Palace

Brian Phelps, star of the 1960s, is remembered as Britain's best from 10 metres; but Snode excels at both the 10-metre and three-metre springboard. If there were a combined medal, as in gymnastics, he would be a strong challenger to Greg Louganis, of the United States, the double world champion of 1982, when Snode was eighth in both as well as Commonwealth Games gold medallist. In this year's European he was fourth (10 metres) and third (springboard).

A particularly gauche piece of publicity handout last week caused him some embarrassment with its clumsy talk of finance; but Snode, returning yesterday to Miami with no more than a single loose bag of possessions, is particularly grateful to the SAF, the Sports Council, the Haverhill council and sponsored swims by children of this local Essex schools. He believes British coaching and facilities are first class but the imbalance of part-time coaching only in the evening, forces him to America.

He spent four years at Florida University, gaining a degree in graphics design, wasted a year trying to work and dive – "virtually impossible" – and went back to full-time training for the Olympics, living with a Canadian family whose son is also a diver.

He probably does 60,000 practice dives in a year as well as training on trampoline, road running, "quick-twitch" jumps, weights and handstands to develop his particularly strong hands and arms. He took up diving when he was 11, finding he ws not much good at team games. "As a goalkeeper, I could dive to the ball – but it tended to go through my hands!"

He loves his sport for its fun, its exhilarating feeling of flying, and for having introduced a new technique – "though next year they'll probably have 3,000 Chinese doing it, but not in time for Los Angeles."

Snode thinks that at 24 he is a more mature competitor than in the Moscow Olympics, where he was unjustly criticized for coming ninth and sixth. "I won't brag that I'll win but I think I ought to get a medal, to show those Americans". If not, he will probably take up ski acrobatics or hang gliding. With a smile.

David Miller

RUGBY LEAGUE

Top flight coaches are ordered back to school

By Keith Macklin

The inisistence that rugby league club coaches must attend a qualifying course before the 1986-87 season has thrown up some strange anomilies. No fewer than 13 present club coaches not taken an official coaching course, among them the present Great Britain coach, Frank Myler, Roger Millward (Hull Kingston Rovers) and Arthur Bunting, from the League champions, Hull, must also "go back to school" before the start of the 1986-87 season.

Myler said yesterday: "Obviously I welcome the course. The reason I have not attended a full coaching course in the past is that I have always been too busy with a commission agent's business in Widnes. However, I think it could be an excellent idea. One of the problems for acoach is occupying the time of players successfully for two hours on two evenings a week without them getting bored and stale. A properly conducted and instructive course will teach not only tactics, but fitness standards and leadership."

The decision by the Rugby League Council was greeted with strong reservations by the coach of the current first division leaders, Bradford, Northern, the outspoken Peter Fox. While giving a guarded welcome to the scheme, will be under the supervision of the League's director of coaching, Phil Larder, Fox said: "Does this mean that any coach who does not attend a course will be sacked by his club on the instructions of the League or league council? Who will supervise the courses in addition to Phil Larder, and will the courses widen out into such subjects as man management.

Fox, already a grade one coach and therefore unaffected by the new ruling, said the League must state clearly what would be involved in a coaching course, and who would conduct them.

David Howes, the league's public relations officer, made it clear that those who have had a minimum of five years as a coach at senior level, or an international appointment, will be able to qualify by attending a course next May.

● Great Britain are to play 25 matches on next summer's tour of Australia. The party fly out to Australia on May 13, move on to New Zealand in early July and visit Papua New Guinea for the first ever test between the two sides before returning home on August 9. The four Australian dates have already been announced.

The rest of the games are:
July 10 v New Zealand Maoris (Whangarei); July 14 v New Zealand, First Test (Auckland); July 15 v Northern Districts (Huntley); July 18 v Central Districts (Wellington); July 22 v New Zealand, Second Test (Christchurch); July 25 v South Island (Christchurch); July 29 v New Zealand, third Test (Auckland); July 31 v Auckland (Auckland); August 5 v Papua New Guinea, Test (Mount Hagen); August 8 v District Selection (Port Moresby).

RACKETS

Baily is the conqueror

The public schools singles championship for the H. K. Foster Cup began yesterday at Queen's Club with a match of excellent quality between Pete Baily, of Eton, and Simon Miller, of Haileybury. In a see-saw contest Baily won by keeping his head when faced with an opponent in outstanding form.

Miller, who is coached by Peter Ellis, the Haileybury professional, whose son, Richard, the Middlesex cricketer, is the only player to have won the Foster Cup three times in a row, is known as one of the hardest hitters in the schoolboy game. A left-hander with good footwork, he coils his wrist and, leaning on the ball, unleashes whipped shots with no margin for error just above the board.

But Miller is a Jekyll and Hyde character. Having won the first game 15–3, he lost the second 3–15; he recovered his dominance to win the third 15–2, and went to pieces snatching at the ball and playing injudicious drop shots to lose the fourth 15–7.

In the final game, Baily led 9–4, then Miller had a run of serve to lead 12–9. At 13-all Miller chose set to three, which he lost to love.

An impressive performance was given by Edmund Popplewell of Radley, brother of Somerset county cricketer Nigel, who beat Nicholas Shaw of Tonbridge 15–11, 15–6, 15–1, serving well and striking the ball with fine strokes.

CRICKET

Imran needs a longer pause for reflection

By Ivo Tennant

It is sad that Imran Khan's autobiography *Imran* (Pelham Books, £7.95) should come out at a time when injury prevents him from being seen in his pomp. Were it not for the fact that he is good publishers' material, it would be tempting to ponder whether this book has been rushed out before fond memories of his brilliance begin to fade. Hopefully he will attain it again. Age, though is no longer on his side.

The book has been rushed out, in 163 pages, one thought spilling into the next. This is strange, for Imran, in addition to his fine cricketing ability and charisma, is a learned man, an Oxford graduate, who was never out of the library in his early days. He was not one to pick daisies or loaf around at third man. A reflective mind absorbed detail that later was to aid his captaincy.

So this, then, becomes just another autobiography of just another cricketer, which, of course, Imran is not. If such comparisons are meaningful (and he does not think they are), he was certainly a better all rounder than Botham and Kapil Dev before the shin trouble, which has prevented him from bowling began early this year. Far from entering he debate, he shows only generosity towrds them.

Much of Imaran's career has been well chronicled elsewhere: his affluent upbringing, his family's pride (Majid Khan is his cousin), his success in England in 1982, the playboy image (which he tones down here, doubtless to the publishers' dismany). The dominant theme, while discussing all this, is the gradual improvement of his bowling. He always had faith in his batting so consistent these days.

What is new is the account of his "year of rows" - why he left Worcestershire why he held the Pakistan selectors to ransom for more money, why he joined Packer. At the time he was far from being a great cricketer, and was perhaps fortunate to get away with all three. Luckily, cricket, in the long run, has benefited.

Captain under pressure

Melbourne (Reuter) – Imran Khan, who in normal circumstances would probably have missed the Pakistanis match against South-West New South Wales at Griffith, which starts today, will use it as a vital step towards regaining full fitness.

Imran, who played his first match of the tour against Tasmania over the weekend after receiving specialist advice on his injured left shin, is still not certain to play on the Fourth Test starting here on Boxing Day.

His selection may depend on his form in the one day game today. "Obviously I need all the match practice I can get" Imran said. "I won't be bowling but batting at number four or five."

Imran said he was not discouraged by scoring only 13 and 19 against Tasmania. "I felt comfortable when batting," he said.

South-West NSW (from): G Bennett, P Duck, B McDonald, L Rosenow, T Harper, D Jackson, J Gannon, W Lamont, P Davies, C Patterson, T Purcell, D Irvine.

Pakistan from: Imran Khan, Zaheer Abbas, Wasim Bari, Mudassar Nazar, Nohsin Kahn, Wasim Raja, Tahir Naqqash, Qasim Omar, Mansoor Akhtar, Rashid Khan, Salim Malik, Sarfraz Nawaz, Mohammad Nazir.

Spinners hold key

Johannesburg (Reuter) – Two spin bowlers have been included in the South African XI squad from which the team will be chosen for the first two four-day matches against the West Indian cricketers.

Kourie, a left-arm spinner, and Hobson, with his leg breaks, will provide a twin threat to the touring team, who have shown themselves to be suspect against spin. Both have had marked success against them, Hobson taking 12 wickets in their match against Western Province and Kourie being the chief wicket-taker in the second innings in the game against Transvaal.

The opening four-day game in the four-match series starts in Durban on Friday and the second a week later in Cape Town.

Procter has been dropped from the South African side which lost the first one-day match

Team (from): P N Kirsten, S Cook, R Fotheringham, R L G Pollock, K S McEwan, E B Rice, J Kourie, S Le Roux, S Jefferies, R L Jennings, D L Hobson, R W Hanley.

● TRIVANDRUM, India (AP) – An elegant century by Jignesh Sangani helped the Indian under-22 team to score 239 for eight on the opening day of a two-day match against the touring West Indians.

INDIAN UNDER-22 XI: First innings

L Rajput c Pydanna b Baptiste	27
S Viswanath c Pydanna b Holding	0
J Sanghani run out	104
Y A Khan c and b Gomez	52
D Mohanty run out	8
Balkar Singh b Harper	0
Manoj Prabhakar c Harper b Gomez	24
D Yadav c Daniel b Gomez	9
R Arun not out	8
W V Raman not out	0
Extras (b-2 nb-5)	7
Total (eight wkts)	239

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-61, 3-000, 4-188, 5-187, 6-202, 7-227, 8-239.

BOWLING: Holding, 6-2-14-1; Davis, 16-6-39-0; Baptiste, 9-1-23-1; Daniel, 10-1-41-0; Harper, 28-4-88-1; Gomez, 16-4-32-3.

Inverarity: overhauled Bradman

Inverarity's run record

Sydney, (Reuter) – John Inverarity, the captain of South Australia, has overtaken Sir Donald Bradman's record of runs scored in Sheffield Shield cricket, but regards it as an act of "sacrilege".

Inverarity, aged 39, was out after playing only one scoring shot in South Australia's second innings against New South Wales yesterday. The square cut for four off the off-spinner Holland took his total of shield runs to 8,929 compared with Bradman's 8,926. Inverarity whose Shield batting average is 39.99, needed 146 matches and 258 innings to pass the record which Bradman (average 110.20) set in 62 games and 96 innings.

"I am conscious of how few innings Sir Donald took, and I feel humble," Inverarity said. he agreed with Greg Chappell, who is close to overtaking Bradman's Test aggregate. "Greg said it was sacrilege to talk about overhauling Bradman, and I concur.

'Buzzer' Hadingham takes over as chairman at Wimbledon

Literary man follows a passage down the corrider of power

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett is smart or lucky or both. Anyone who is chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Croquet Club and the Wimbledon management committee has to regard it as no more than an even money bet that he will get out of the job voluntarily, rather than retiring hurt. That is what Sir Brian proposes to do when he retires today. After 23 years on the All England club committee and 10 as chairman he will hand over to an extraordinary man

R. E. H. 'Buzzer' Hadingham, who retired from Slazenger on November 30 after 50 years with the company is extraordinary on many counts. For one thing this former army officer's bundle of names includes (at the behest of his father, a navy man) those of a famous admiral, Edward Hawke, who sorted out the French at Quiberon Bay. But when Hadingham was born 'Buzzer' was the closest his brother, aged two, could get to the word 'brother'. The nickname stuck and its connotations – a whistle or hooter summoning people to work – are not inappropriate to the roles Hadingham played with Slazenger and the army and the role he is about to play at Wimbledon.

Hadingham was born at The Hague because his father, then serving in the Royal Navy, was cut off by the Germans and found refuge in the Netherlands where his wife joined him. Young 'Buzzer' went into the Territorial Army in 1938 and became a lieutenant colonel in an antitank regiment. Thanks to a chance posting he emerged from the war with a permanent interest in ancient Assyria and became sufficiently expert on the subject to make it the theme of learned papers. These he read to 'The Sette of Odd Volumes' a dining club founded by an



Hadingham: starts today

antiquarian bookseller in 1878. Members had nicknames associated with their trades. Hadingham's is 'Racketeer'. Wimbledon's new chairman also has a gift for verse ('I sometimes find it a very good way to round off speeches') and has had a collection published privately.

After all this it is merely a question of dotting the I's and crossing the T's to note that the Dutch born versifyer and wit with a naval and military background, and a special knowledge of Assyria, has a Canadian wife, a Wimbledon home and a reputation for fund raising: notably as chairman of the Lawn Tennis Foundation whose tasks include tennis development among national youth organizations and the charity Sparks (Sportsmen Pledged to Aid Research into Crippling). In assembling stock for the Wimbledon shop he has also helped to finance the Wimbledon museum.

Hadingham is, in short, a lot of men rolled into one dapper package. He is so breezy and so young in all but age (he was 68 on December 6) that if there are any cobwebs left at Wimbledon it is unlikely that they will survive for long. In his 50 years with Slazenger he was immersed in international sport and business and men and women common to both: in the process he earned respect and affection. This experience and those contacts will be of value when he takes charge of the game's most famous club and its most famous championships.

Hadingham was, and is, tough but the spirit of laughter is never far from the surface. One interesting effect of this many sided personalities is that the toughness and sharp wits underlying his bubbling charm and impish sense of humour may inhibit those who disagree with him. They may suspect, deep down that they are wrong – and that Hadingham will have the last laugh anyway.

Hadingham will differ sharply, for neither better nor worse from his predecessor. Sir Brian took over on the death of Herman David in 1974, a year after that historic boycott. In the years between there has been a quiet revolution at Wimbledon. Sir Brian has been a leader who has led well: during a difficult challenging decade in which the Wimbledon championships have respected the game's traditions and their own, while moving with the times so efficiently that they have remained the first among equals.

Sir Brian's shyness at once engaging and misleading has sometimes suggested that he was standoffish. This was unjust. He enjoyed people and wanted to enjoy them more but by nature and background he was not sufficiently extrovert to combine the role of leader with that of 'one of the boys'. Sir Brian and Hadingham have much in common in that they are natural leaders and men of acumen and high principles – qualities shared by Mark Cox who has been nominated to replace Sir Brian on the committee.

YACHTING

Australia give their rivals leeway

By Barry Pickthall

The first Australian defence of the America's Cup, won last September by Alan Bond's controversial wing-keeled challenger Australia II, will start in February 1987 over an Olympic course set 16 kilometres to the north of Freemantle, in Western Australia.

This was confirmed earlier this week by Peter Danziell, Commodore of the Royal Perth Yacht Club, holders of the trophy. He added that the club has retained 12 metre yachts as the defending class

Danziell also announced that the deadline for challenge entries has been extended from January 31 to April 30 1984, following pleas from American syndicates that more time was needed to raise the £4,225,000 ($6m) necessary to mount individual challenges.

Six US syndicates have expressed interest in sending challengers to Perth, including the New York Yacht Club, whose members are still smarting over their first defeat in the 132 year history of the Cup. Other American challengers could come from the Yacht Clubs of San Diego, Long Beach, St. Francis, Waikiki in Hawaii, and New Bedford in Massachussetts.

Other foreign interest has been shown by two syndicates in Italy, Peter de Savary's British Victory group, and others in Canada, France, Denmark, Germany, Holland, New Zealand and Japan.

The problem facing most of these challengers, however, is raising the multimillion pound sponsorship deals necessary to mount a successful campaign at a venue one potential skipper describes as being the last outpost of the western world.

Western Australia has a population of only 1.2m, and without the promise of live television coverage in America and elsewhere of both the trials and final races, few companies can see a worthwhile return being gained from their contributions.

By contrast, interest in Australia is intense, with separate syndicate groups being set up in Queensland, Victoria, Adelaide and Perth, most of whom have approached Australia II's designer, Ben Lexcen, to produce similar wing-keeled designs for them.

Peter de Savary is not expected to announce whether he will challenge again for Britain until returning from a business trip to Perth next month.

● With two races now completed in the Southern Cross Cup being sailed off Sydney, Australia, the British team have improved their overall standing from fourth to second (John Robertson writes). The three British yachts were all well placed in the one hundred and eighty mile short offshore race which finished yesterday.

Panda, Peter Whipp's yacht, and Indulgence, skippered by Graham Walker, were fourth and fifth across the finishing line, only eighteen seconds apart. However on corrected time Panda dropped to tenth, while Indulgence lost one place. The third yacht in the team, Jade, which rates more than two feet less than Indulgence, crossed the line fifteenth, but improved to eleventh when the handicaps were worked out.

The outstanding team in this race were the New Zealanders, whose boats Pacific Sundancer and Geronimo took first and second places on corrected time. Lifting their team from second place to a healthy thirty nine point lead. The third yacht in the New Zealand team, Exador, was eight on corrected time.

With two more short thirty mile races around Olympic triangles left before the triple points scoring Sydney to Hobart race, the British have time to catch the New Zealanders, but the task will not be easy. The New Zealand boats are being extremely well sailed, and the British have been making a few poor tactical decisions. However, the 630 mile Sydney to Hobart race has frequently been the decider in this series, with the weather in the Bass Straight often both changeable and severe.

SCORE (After two races): New Zealand 206 pts; Britain 167 pts; Papua New Guinea 153 pts.

TENNIS

Dowdeswell in Cup team

Colin Dowdeswell will make his first international appearance for Britain when he competes in the King's Cup in Essen, West Germany, from January 16 to 22. Dowdeswell, who has moved more than 40 places up the world rankings to 31 following a successful tour recently in South Africa, was chosen yesterday, as were Christopher Mottram and Jeremy Bates, the young Surry player who is based in Solihull. A fourth player will be added to the team later.

Dowdeswell, aged 28, was born in Wimbledon, but was brought up in Rhodesia and played in the Davis Cup for that country before it became Zimbabwe. For the last few years he has lived in Switzerland, and earlier this year won the Swiss national championship. He was cleared recently by the International Tennis Federation to play for Britain.

Paul Hutchins, the British team manager, said: "His presence will obviously strengthen our team. Although Mottram has stopped playing international Grand Prix tournaments, I still feel that his standard is good enough to play in such team matches, providing he is keen to practice and train hard. Unfortunately John Lloyd is unavailable due to tournament commitment in the United States."

The King's Cup has a new format this year. Instead of matches being played with home and away legs, the whole competition will be contested over one week. Britain will play in the first division alongside West Germany, the holders, Russia, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Ireland.

● SANTIAGO, (Reuter) – Jaime Fillol has been appointed Chile's Davis Cup coach for next year's American zone competition. Fillol will replace Luis Arraya, whose team were defeated 4-1 by Britain in October in a play-off for the right to stay in the championship division in 1984. Chile will meet Colombia in March.

هكذا من الأصل

Hill-Wood is holding on despite the draught at the top of the tree

The chairman sticks to his Gunners

Peter Hill-Wood, Arsenal's chairman, yesterday repudiated a rumour that he would be leaving the club in the wake of his manager, Terry Neill, whom he sacked last Friday.

It is being suggested, upon the evidence of Hill-Wood's change of plan in suddenly dismissing Neil, that boardroom takeover is imminent, similar to that at Tottenham last season, in which Irving Scholar and his associates ousted the financially endangered regime of the Richardson family after the building of the new stand.

But there is no comparable crisis at Highbury – where the architecture is emphatically prewar art nouveau – and Hill-Wood said yesterday: "I shall appoint the new manager and there is no intention that I am aware of to remove me from the chair. I agree that this would be possible if the rest of the board became united against me, but I think at present we are broadly in agreement."

Speculation has been growing because of the purchase of 16 per cent of Arsenal's shares by their new director David Dein, but Hill-Wood insists: "He and I get on well together. He's put money into the club, he's quite well off and he's a good chap to have there. He takes a more active interest in the daily functions of the club than the average director does."

It is not true, as has been suggested, that Dein and Scholar are friends. Dein, who has made his money as a commodity broker in sugar, has only once met Scholar, a property millionaire.

The present breakdown of shareholding is that while Dein has 16 per cent Hill-Wood has 15 and the assurance of support of another seven or eight per cent. Those three sources together are sufficient to resist the potential power of the Carr brothers, Clive and Richard, should they become interested in an attempted boardroom coup. They would need the support of Dein in order to unseat the Old Etonian family who have ruled Highbury for over 50 years.

The Carrs gained their shares through the Bracewell-Smith family – their mother being a member of that other prominent family who have provided Highbury directors for two



Hill-Wood: no crisis

generations – and Hill-Wood invited them on to the board 18 months ago.

"I don't think the Supurs kind of coup is possible and I'm certainly relaxed about the situation," Hill-Wood said. "Whether I'll stick it out or not I just don't know. I'll have to see how I feel in another three or four years. I do not intend to die in the job, as my grandfather and father did, even though I have great loyalty to the traditions they set and I certainly do not intend to stand down at present".

Hill-Wood, forced into the dismissal of Neill fundamentally because of the failure of the £750,000 Charlie Nicholas to recapture some of the crowd appeal which had disappeared with the sale of Brady and Stapleton, says he has the will-power to stay as chairman, but his problem is more a matter of time.

He is highly involved with a city bank and has to do a great deal of travelling. He admits that his family holiday this year in the United States was continually disrupted by phone calls dealing with day-to-day business at Highbury.

"More and more nowdays," he says, "it is the role of the chairman to be involved in business decisions which are essential to the success and survival of the club, and I have to judge for how long I can maintain this when I have to earn my living and have a young family".

It can be expected that the longer-standing members of the board, including his brother-in-law, Tony Wood, will remain loyal. Anyone considering pushing Hill-Wood out of the club should reflect that Arsenal, along with Ipswich, Southampton and Manchester United under the old days of Harold Hardman, have been among the handful of clubs who have maintained a brand of dignity and decorum in the last 20 years during which behaviour on and off the field has progressively deteriorated.

The situation at Highbury is uncertain. It is neither too bad for any opponents of Hill-Wood to say that he has to go, nor good enough to make anyone impatient to grab the reins. Anyone seeking power is more likely to want to see how the team resolve themselves under the new manager to be appointed early in the new year. Hill-Wood would not wish to hand over the club in anything other than a stable, prosperous and successful state.

David Miller

European match will produce one winner and two losers

Split Yugoslavia (Agencies) - The fate of three nations hangs in the balance when Yugoslavia meet Bulgaria in a European Championship qualifying match here today. Victory for the Yugoslavs in the last Group Four match would ensure they filled one of the two remaining places in the finals in France next year.

However such are the permutations, any other result would send either the Bulgarians or the current leaders, Wales, to France. It might even come down to drawing lots, if Bulgaria win 2-1. If Bulgaria win 2-1, or by one goal as long as they score three or more, they will be sure of qualifying. Otherwise, Wales will become Britain's only representatives at the finals.

Yugoslavia held Wales to a 1-1 draw in Cardiff last week, and must be favourites to go through, but the Bulgarians, beaten 1-0 at home by Yugoslavia in November last year, have been shrewdly rebuilt by Ivan Vutsov, and are a much improved side.

The Yugoslav coach, Todor Veselinovic, has pledged his side to attack, but is well aware of the danger posed by the lively Bulgarian wingers, Iskrenov and Mladenov. Bulgaria, who have won their last four internationals, will rely heavily on the goal-scoring centre back, Dimitrov. Both sides, however, will be without key men, Nikolov, of Bulgaria, and Stojkovic, the talented winger, who has been drafted into the Yugoslav army.

The Wales manager, Mike England, referring to the drawing of lots, said: "That would be a terrible way of settling things, but we would just be glad to have the chance to qualify". England is to spend this afternoon at his north Wales home.

YUGOSLAVIA (probable): Z Simovic; Z Vujovic, L Pancev, L Radanovic, B Drobnjak, M Jesic, S Katanec, I Gudelj, M Bazdarevic, Z Vujovic, S Susic, M Mlinaric.
BULGARIA (probable): B Mihajlov, N Sirakov, N Arabov, P Petrov, G Dimitrov, R Zdravkov, B Iskrenov, A Sadkov, Z Gospodinov, G Danov, N Stoycev.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	6	3	2	1	7	6	8
Yugoslavia	5	2	2	1	9	9	6
Bulgaria	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
Norway	6	1	2	3	7	8	4

Unwelcome rain in Spain

Seville (Reuter) - Spain's slender hopes of scoring the 11-goal victory over Malta today that would give them a place in the 1984 European Championship finals have been dealt a further blow by the weather.

The pitch here is sodden following continual rain since last Sunday. Malta were unable to train when they arrived yesterday but may not be unhappy with conditions that promise to slow down Spain's four-man attack.

The Netherlands' 5-0 win over Malta in Rotterdam last Saturday was responsible for setting Spain their formidable task today. The Dutch now seem certain to fill one of the two remaining places in the eight-nation finals in France next year.

Not surprisingly, the Spanish coach, Miguel Munoz, has named an attacking 3-3-4 line-up for the Group Seven match with three centre-forwards, Carlos Santillana, of Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao's Manuel Sarabia and Hipolito Rincon, of Real Betis. "Spain did once win 13-0 against Bulgaria, but it was 50 years ago," Munoz said.

Spain will be without two of their best players although the absence through injury of the goalkeeper, Luis Arconada, who has not missed an international since the 1978 World Cup finals, is unlikely to put the home team at a great disadvantage against Malta's modest attack.

SPAIN: F Buyo; A Goikoetxea, A Maceda, J Camacho, J Senor, V Munoz or F Guerri, R Gordillo, F Carrasco, C Santillana, M Sarabia, H Rincon.

MALTA (from): J Bonello, N Farrugia, J Holland, N Schembri, N Buttigieg, E Farrugia, E Fabri, E Spiteri-Gonzi, S Tortell, C Busuttil, M Degiorgio, S Demanuel.

GROUP SEVEN

Netherlands	8	6	1	1	22	6	13
Spain	7	5	1	1	12	7	11
Ireland	8	4	1	3	20	10	9
Iceland	8	1	0	6	3	13	3
Malta	7	1	0	6	4	25	2

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group Four: Yugoslavia 0, Bulgaria 0
FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	6	3	2	1	12	5	8
Bulgaria	6	3	2	1	6	3	8
Wales	6	2	2	2	5	6	6
Norway	6	0	2	4	6	15	2

Another European cup for Aberdeen

By Hugh Taylor

Aberdeen 2
Hamburg 0

Second half goals by Simpson and McGhee gave Aberdeen the European Super Cup at Pittodrie last night.

As befits the holders of a major European trophy, Aberdeen knew the name of their play in the second leg of their Super Cup final was patience. There were then, none of the furious forays so beloved by Celtic and Rangers, the former Scottish champions in Europe, as the gamr began to flow before a packed house of 22,000 spectators who bounced nervously on their comfortable seats in the stadium believing Hamburg had taken early command.

Certainly Leighton was a busier goalkeeper as the Germans essayed a series of sporadic raids but he was equal to all the demands without giving away too much in energy. But Aberdeen's tentative probings ended and the Scots mounted more incisive attacks. In one McGhee loomed menacingly in the German penalty area, going near with a spectacular overhead kick which Stein was happy to see edge past the post. It was a first indication that Aberdeen were not short of fire power and the signal for more venomous if not massive onslaughts by the home team.

It was hardly a match to make pulses pound, with few glimpses of either good old fashioned Scottish elegance or continental dexterity and the fans yearned for more passion from the players. Scottish football supporters have little time for the possession game and, alas, there were few dramatic moments in an untidy but never exciting first half, always more passive than positive.

There had been few significant shots from the Germans and Aberdeen were hardly masters of accuracy, although Bell went near after the industrious McGhee had given him a chance. The first ferocious attempt came from Schatzschneider, a full blooded drive from 25 yards but the ball soared over the bar.

At half time the fans sighed and hoped for a more engrossing second half. There had been little between the teams in the first period, and certainly little was seen of the form befitting European champions.

Only a minute of the second half had gone when all was forgiven. Aberdeen at last opened up and deservedly went ahead with a fine build up. A touch of traditional Scottish wing play started it. Weir went speeding down the left wing and sent over a neat little cross. The Hamburg defence was breached and although Hewitt's shot was blocked, Simpson was on the spot to slip the ball into the net.

This was the Aberdeen their legions of admirers knew and loved in full cry now and all out for goals The Hamburg goal was beleaguered, with shots raining in, and the energetic drie of the Scot made a vivid contrast to the first half lethargy.

The Super Cup seemed destined for Aberdeen when McGhee scored a second goal following a corner. Aberdeen were well ahead with the Hamburg team in disarray.

ABERDEEN: Leighton; McKimmie, McMaster, Simpson, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Hewitt, McGhee, Bell, Weir.
HAMBURG: Stein; Kaltz, Wehmeyer, Jakobs, Hieronymus, Hartwig, Schroder, Groh, Schatzschneider, Magath, Rolff.
Referee: H Brummeier (Austria).

Swansea fail to tempt Appleton from Hull

Colin Appleton, the Hull City manager, has turned down an offer to take over at Swansea City which would have nearly doubled his salary.

Appleton, who spent a day with the troubled second division club earlier this week, decided yesterday to stay and direct Hull's challenge for promotion from the third division after talking to his chairman Don Robinson.

"I feel there is a job of work to be done at Hull and I cannot see the end of it just yet," said Appleton. It is always nice to be wanted and I seriously considered Swansea's offer. The terms were good and the potential of the club is obvious. "They have been in the first division but slipped dramatically, which suggests that major surgery is needed. Whether the chairman looks at it in that light, though, I don't know."

Robinson said "Colm is staying for a lot less money than they offered. He would just about have doubled his money with Swansea. It is very good these days, when football is in such a mess, to find someone who is so loyal to his club."

Gordon Lee has been dismissed as manager of Preston North End. Lee, the former Everton, Newcastle, Blackburn and Port Vale manager, took over at Deepdale in December 1981, succeeding Tommy Docherty, to become Preston's 12th manager since the war.

His dismissal, and that of his

Lee: dismissed

assistant Geoff Nulty, was announced in a brief statement by the club's directors last night.

Alan Kelly Preston's long-serving club man who was previously in charge of the reserves, will take control of the first team for the Christmas programme.

STEVE HUNT, Coventry City's midfield player, appears before an FA disciplinary commission in London today hoping that the punishment he has already received will help him to escape a fine and a suspension.

Hunt was sent off for butting Steve Williams of Southampton in November and has just served an automatic two-match suspension. In addition, Coventry's manager Bobby Gould find him £750.

Brazilians' World Cup is stolen

Rio de Janiero, Reuter – The Jules Rimet World Cup was stolen from the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Association on Monday night, Giulite Coutinho, the Association president, revealed yesterday.

Speaking bedisehe empty display cabinet, he appealed to all Brazilians to help find the trophy which Brazil holds in perpetuity after winning the world championship three times, in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

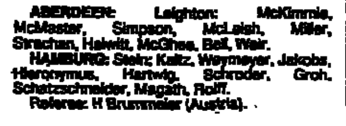
The spiritual value of the cup is far greater than its material worth" he said.

"I only hope it has not been melted down to sold for its gold content."

Coutinho said he understands two men overpowered and tied up a night porter before entering the presidential offices and removing the display cabinets bullet-proof glass by haking away its wooden surround.

A number of other trophies were also stolen. An exact replica of the Jules Rimet Cup, stored in a strong-room beside the display cabinet, was not taken.

It is the second time the trophy has been stolen. A cross-bred collie dog called Pickles found it had been taken in 1966, the year England won the World Cup.



Keegan back at Anfield before the big screen

Kevin Keegan's return to Anfield will be shown live on .elevision. The Professional Footballers Association and the FA have reached agreement on the cash row which threatened to black out the third round FA Cup tie between Liverpool and Newcastle United.

The match will now take place on Friday, January 6, before the BBC cameras and the remaining live screenings for the rest of the FA Cup rounds will also go ahead.

But no announcement of details in the agreement were revealed when the two sides broke up after four hours of talks in London yesterday.

Gordon Taylor, the PFA secretary, said: "I'm happy to say that we have reached an amicable agreement over the dispute concerning TV income for the season. Part of the negotiations involved that no other statement would be made."

The FA had offered £40,000 – a reduction of 60 per cent from last season's figure – even though the television companies had agreed a £2m deal with them to show, for the first time, one live match from the third round onwards.

The PFA felt "insulted" by the cut in the fee paid in recognition of their players appearing before the television cameras. At their recent annual meeting they agreed to boycott such matches if the offer was not increased.

Liverpool and Newcastle players were put on standby to refuse to run out at Anfield on the Friday night if the cameras were there, and no increase had been offered. It seems that the players' union will be getting some additional cash

One possible solution could have been a donation by the FA to one specific section of the PFA which looks after compensation for players

But neither side – the PFA were represented by Taylor, Steve Coppel, chairman and Bob Latchford, chairman-elect, and the FA by their chairman, Bert Millichip, Ted Croker, secretary, and David Hill-Wood, Finance Committee chairman – would confirm this.

Kelly praises League's progress

Football will still be Britain's major spectator sport when the League celebrates its centenary in 1988. That is the firm view of Graham Kelly, the League secretary, who believes that the game is now far healthier

Kelly is very optimistic about the future. "I don't think anyone can deny that three points for a win has produced more exciting matches, he said. "So too has the league's action regarding the so-called professional foul. Measures like these, plus the sophisticated operations adopted by clubs against the hooligan problem, have all played a part in slowing down the fall in attendances."

BOOK REVIEWS

Tennis climbs the league

By Rex Bellamy

One of the fringe benefits of open tennis and the game's consequent expansion as a segment of the world-wide entertainment business is that distinguished writers have been attracted to the circuit in numbers that, 20 years ago, would have been unthinkable. Tennis has moved up the literary league and justifies the anthology edited by Richard Evans under the title *Tales from the Tennis Court* (Sidgwick and Jackson, £7.95).

This is a much smaller volume than such hefty predecessors as *The Fireside Book of Tennis* (1972) and *The Tennis Book* (1981), published in the United States and Canada. But Evans, himself one of the games most accomplished scribes, compensates for the comparatively small canvas by selecting and organizing his material with acuity and discretion.

Not the least virtue of this collection is that it will introduce many readers to the enviable talents of such overseas writers as the genially anecdotal Herbert Warren Wind, Frank Deford (almost as good on Jimmy Connors as he is on Bill Tilden), Bud Collins, who contributes a sensitive farewell to Forest Hills, and the hilarious Gordon Forbes, whose nightmares have given much pleasure to everyone except his room-mates.

The leading British writers are included, too. With the reservation that no two tennis enthusiasts have identical literary preferences, Evans's overall choice provokes only two regrets. One, he is inevitably restricted to the English language. Two, he includes a few pieces that, in this context, seem pedestrian. There may be a hidden reason for the scattered outbursts of twaddle. Evans had to make the pieces fit. His selection is tailored to provide a commentary on the game's history, the men and women who made it, the great stadia, memorable matches, the circuit's life-style, and the off-court crises that have bedevilled the development of tennis. To meet all those needs, he sometimes had to call on the chorus line as well as the stars.

The wide range of subjects is matched by the variety of writing styles. And Evans makes a necessary distinction between "instant" reporting (often extemporized by writers with no time to write) and pieces produced at leisure for magazines or books. Evans is known to be a hard man, but on the evidence of this book a romantic rages within him.

BOXING

A rest then a recall for Douglas

England will be without middleweight Rod Douglas for their amateur international match against Ireland at Milton Keynes on January 6.

Douglas is being rested after three successful international performances this season.

Douglas, from St George's, London, will return to the side for the match against Scotland at Camberley, Surrey, on January 25.

TEAM (v Ireland, Milton Keynes, January 6): Light Flyweight: J Lyon (St Helens); Flyweight: S Nolan (Fisher, London); Bantamweight: J Hyland (Ambrose, Liverpool); Featherweight: P English (Cavendish, Manchester); Lightweight: K Willis (Rotunda, Liverpool); Light Welterweight: D Jennings (Birkenhead); Welterweight: B McKenzey (Cavendish, Manchester); Light Middleweight: R Thomas (Gloucester); Light Heavyweight: B Schumacher (Royal Navy) and T Wilson (Wolverhampton); Super Heavyweight: K Ferdinand (Royal Navy).

TEAM (v Scotland, Lakeside Country Club, Camberley, January 25): LIGHT FLYWEIGHT: D Porter (Hitchin); FLYWEIGHT: S Nolan (Fisher, London); BANTAMWEIGHT: J Hyland (Ambrose, Liverpool); FEATHERWEIGHT: K Taylor (Rochdale); LIGHTWEIGHT: G Rodgers (Tunstall); LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT: M Ballard (Portsmouth); WELTERWEIGHT: C Blake (Fitzroy Lodge, London); LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT: R Douglas (St George's, London); MIDDLEWEIGHT: J Peters (Lichfield); LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: B Xavier (St Mary's, Chatham); SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT: B Wells (Kingston).

FISHING

An angler's tangled life

By Conrad Voss Bark

That eminent sporting journal, *The Field*, has warned us that we are likely to have a record sea trout on our books fairly soon. It will be, all being well, an official record, adjudicated and confirmed by a committee of experts sitting in conclave at Peterborough, the British Record (rod-caught) Fish Committee. The fish which came before this august body was a 20-pounder taken in the Castle Pool of the Tweed last November by Mr G Leavy.

Establishing an official record is not quite the simple matter the uninitiated fisherman might imagine. Far more is needed than hanging it on a rusty spring balance from the fishing bag. The fish has to be produced for inspection by the committee around whose table sit a number of respected and sceptical scientists. They carry out elaborate and no doubt exhausting inspections of the poor fish, including what *The Field* describes as electrophoretic tests.

The Field is probably wise not to explain what electrophoretic tests are. Chambers Dictionary says that electrophoretic pertains to electrophoresis, from the Greek *phoreein*, to bear, and that electrophoresis, involves the migration of suspended particles, as protein macromolecules, under the influence of an electric field. One imagines from this that it might be a lot easier for Mr Leavy to get his sea trout in the Guinness Book of Records than past the hawk eyed men of Peterborough.

No doubt caution is justified. Fishermens tales have been notoriously elastic, ever since the whopper about Jonah and the Whale. The last thing one wants is to have a new kind of Piltdown Skull scandal shaking the roots of the British Record (rod-caught) Fish Committee. One can only applaud their decision to go for the full electrophoresis in case Mr Leavy's fish turns out to be a hybrid, or worse.

Not that it is likely. Twenty-pound sea trout have been caught before. So far as I remember they had one on the hotel water on Loch Maree about 1951 which was taken on a 1 or 1/0 Black Pennell on the Ash Island beat; but this was not, I am quite sure, subjected later to the influence of an electric field. It might have been stuffed and put in a glass case but most probably was eaten. What – one might well ask – will happen to Mr Leavy's sea trout after it has undergone electrophoresis and all the other tests it will have to endure in the post-mortem rooms

RUGBY UNION



Hoping to shake off injuries in 1984: Wheeler Melville and Carleton, optimistic of an early return to the first team.

Carleton returns to prove fitness to England selectors

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

John Carleton, the England right wing, who has not played since being injured against New Zealand on November 19, returns to action on Friday. He will play for Orrell, in their evening game with Bedford at Edge Hall Road, in what Carleton hopes will be a suitably-relaxed atmosphere, now that his club have lost their unbeaten record.

"The leg feels all right, and there's not too much at stake in the game", he said yesterday. "It's better than coming back in the merit table game".

Carleton was carried off the pitch at Twickenham after a flying tackle from Fraser, the All Blacks wing, which left him with a haematoma on the thigh and heavy bruising round his knee, which turned out to be the main problem.

Fortunately, there was no need for an operation, though the leg has been X-rayed every week. Carleton has trained regularly during the last fortnight, and hopes to play once more over the holiday period, to demonstrate his fitness to the England selectors before the trial sides are announced. He will be joined in the Orrell side by Williams, the Lancashire stand-off half, who joined Harlequins at the end of last season, but who has now rejoined his former club.

Melville, the Wasps captain, whose chapter of accidents in 1983 makes Michael Crawford'd television character seem almost normal, is also hopeing to play again this weekend, after an even longer absence. An ankle injury and a neck injury respectively prevented him from winning a first cap for England and from playing in an international for the Lions, and a pre-season knee injury has prevented him from representing his club over the last four months.

He is to play for Wasps' third team on Saturday and, if all goes well, for the second team on December 31, and for the senior side against Rosslyn Park on January 2. Whether the selectors would be prepared to gamble on him coming through the three games, and pick him for the trial on January 7, remains to be seen. Wasps include the Cambridge University right wing, Simon Smith, for his senior debut this Saturday against Blackheath.

Leicester will field the side that lost to Bristol last week, when they play Barbarians on December 28 in a game w,hich was a sell-out some weeks ago. They will, therefore, be without Wheeler and Dodge, the two injured England players, their captain, Ian Smith, and the under-23 prop, Stuart Redfern.

After winning 16 successive games, Leicester have lost three of their last five, which is not entirely surprising considering the youth of the current side. The team to play the Barbarians has an average age of only 24, and seven are still eligible for England's under-23 squad, including half the pack.

England are to send an under-23 party to Spain in May, though details of the proposed three-match tour have yet to be confirmed.

● The England captain, Peter Wheeler, will have the plaster cast on his left hand removed on December 30. The Leicester hooker has been in training, after the original cast was removed and a lightweight one put on last week, but he is definitely out of the England trial, on January 7.

"I will have the plaster cast removed on December 30, and should be able to play seven days later," he said. But there is no way I could go into a trial match after such a short build up. The doctor is happy with my hand

Favourites unchanged

By Iain Mackenzie

The South of Scotland have announced an unchanged team for the match against Glasgow at Hawick on Saturday which will decide the Scottish inter-district championship.

It took the five man selection committee only a few minutes to agree that those who beat Edinburgh 29-15 with a 5-1 try count last week should keep their places.

Bob Hogarth, the Kelso scrum half who was on the bench in place of Roy Laidlaw against Edinburgh, stands down this time. But the Jed-Forest electrician, who had to miss last weekend's match because of work, is still only a replacement.

The South, outright winners of the title eleven times and with a share of it on ten other occasions, will start firm favourites. They need only a draw to finish at the top of the table but Glasgow can end the campaign equal on points although with a poorer points differential should they achieve an unexpected victory.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND: P Dods (Gala); A Thomson, R Baird (both Kelso), J Renwick (Hawick), I Tukalo; J Rutherford, G Hunter, (all Selkirk); J Aitken (Gala) capt, C Deans (Hawick), R Cunningham (Gala), A Tomes, A Campbell, S McGaughey (all Hawick), I Paxton (Selkirk), J Jeffrey (Kelso).

● Zimbabwe Schools, with just one win from five matches, continue their English tour against London Schools at Old Deer Park today (2.15).

The school that fulfilled its half-term promise

By Michael Stevenson

The most rewarding thing about covering schools rugby for *The Times* is the variety of interesting people with whom one comes in contact. Two of them wrote to me recently, the first castigating me for giving Sedbergh too much prominence,the second taking me to task equally passionately for giving them too little.

Try again! When Sedbergh defeated **Loretto** (3-39) recently they completed a season that clearly established them as one of the best, if not the best, side in the country. Unbeaten, they scored 253 points to 36 conceded, regularly facing appreciably larger schools and, amazingly, only one try was scored against them.

The hardest match was against **Ampleforth** at home (10-0) and **Durham** away (6-13); but their closest encounter was their away victory against **Bradford GS** (6-11). As Kerry Wedd, their coach, pointed out as early as half-term: "I think we've got an even better side than last year with a very powerful pack, speed outside and a tremendous defensive record". He was not exaggerating. What a pity that the successful **Millfield** side do not meet Sedbergh: Millfield are also unbeaten this autumn.

Even more remarkable statistically is Durham School's record. Defeated by Sedbergh, **Sherborne** and **Ampleforth**, they amassed 627 points and conceded 157, setting an example in the process that could profitably be heeded wherever rugby is played. Their left wing, Alexander, scored 42 tries and their right wing, Maddison, 26. The full back, Roesberry, contributed 182 points. Friend and foe alike have been loud in praise of the exciting rugby that they have played; their fine record is the more remarkable in that the school possess only 300 boys over the age of 13.

Warwick School, celebrating their centenary, have done the job in style. They have lost only two matches this winter, their most recent victory over the powerful **King Henry VIII, Coventry**, crowning a highly successful season. Coached by Martin Green, who is in charge of the England under-23 side as well as having coached the Midlands to victory over the All Blacks, Warwick School have played positive, 15-man rugby. Blake and Haines in the pack, Calverley at scrum half and Beachus and Greenwood on the wings have been outstanding.

Indefatigable as ever, Ampleforth travelled south for a short end-of-term tour, beating **Monmouth** convincingly on Saturday and **St Paul's** (6-19) on Monday, though heavy rain made playing conditions too difficult for the visitors to show the bravura they showed against Monmouth.

IN BRIEF

Hartlepool are given a deadline

Hartlepool United have been given a minth by Hartlepool Council to pay rent arrears of more han £7,000 for their Victoria Ground. The Council are already taking legal action against the club - currently bottom of the fourth division and said to be close to liquidation - over unpaid rates.

The Borough solicitor Mr Jim Forbes said that although the club's chairman Mr Vince Barker had promised to supply him with a full financial statement in September, this had not been forthcoming. Mr Forbes added that his last letter to the club, sent 10 days ago, had not been answered.

TENNIS- Jimmy Connors, beat the top seed Ivan Lendl of Chechoslavakia 6-3, 7-6, 6-1 the second seed, in the final of the Ilie Nastase Hamptons Invitational tournament, at North Miami Beach.

● Suzie Mair, of Britain, reached the quarter final round of the Orange Bowl championships in Miami, with a 6-0, 6-1 defeat of Lisa Paminton, from Indiana, yesterday. All Britain's under-14 boys and girls, David Harris, Colin Beecher, Danny Sapsford, Nick Smith, Anne Simpkin and Theresa Tatlin, won their first round matches and Julie Donovan also had a victory in her first match.

CRICKET .– Warwickshire County Cricket Club have appointed Rob Franklin, aged 29, as head groundsman in succession to Bernard Flack, the Edgbaston groundsman for 27 years, who will continue in his role as the Test and County Cricket Board's inspector of pitches in 1984.

BOXING – Marjan Benes, the former European professional and amateur light middleweight champion, has had his left eye removed in an operation in Yugoslavia (AFP reports). Benes had two operations last year to save his sight, and was injured again in a fight against Maurice Pouffier of Belgium in Stuttgart on December 2.

EQUESTRIANISM

Daring Skelton triumphs

By Jenny MacArthur

Nick Skelton gave the packed hall at the Olympia International Show Jumping championships the most exciting finish of the meeting when, with a daring final round against the clock, he claimed the £4,100 first prize in the Radio Rentals Grand Prix for the Olympia Trophy on Monday night.

Skelton, who won the World Cup qualifying round on Saturday afternoon on the same horse, Mr Terry Clemence's St James, relegated Harvey Smith to second place on Sanyo Olympic Video and John Whitaker, this year's top money-winner, to third on the brilliant Ryan's Son.

Skelton's win comes at the end of an outstanding autumn season, during which his wins have included the Grand Prix in New York, and the World Cup qualifier in Toronto.

On Monday night he was one of eight riders who went through to the final timed round of the Grand Prix, the richest event of the week. Lesley McNaught, the first to go, produced a superb clear round on Barbarella. The pair have been "knocking at the door" throughout this year, and it was bad luck for Miss McNaught deprived of a major win.

Her time of 32.95 seconds was quickly overtaken by Smith who finished in 30.90 seconds. Of those who followed, Whitaker looked threatening. Ryan's Son responded to every question his rider asked, but they finished just short of Smith's time in 31. 99 seconds.

By the time Skelton, the last to go, entered the ring, the crowd were at fever pitch.

Radio Rentals Grand Prix, Olympic Trophy: 1, St James (N Skelton) 0 in 29.37 sec; 2, Sanyo Olympic Video (H Smith) 0 in 30.90; 3, Ryan's Son (J Whitaker) 0 in 31.99.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 49ers 42, Dallas Cowboys 17.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	TPCT	PF	PA
Miami Dolphins	12	4	0.750	389	250
New England P	8	8	0.500	274	289
Buffalo Bills	8	8	0.500	283	351
New York Jets	7	9	0.438	313	331
Baltimore Colts	7	9	0.438	264	354

CENTRAL	W	L	TPCT	PF	PA
Pittsburgh St'lers	10	6	0.625	355	303
Cleveland Browns	9	7	0.563	358	342
Cincinnati Bengals	7	9	0.438	346	302
Houston Oilers	2	14	0.125	288	460

WEST	W	L	TPCT	PF	PA
Los Angeles R	12	4	0.750	442	336
Seattle Seahawks	9	7	0.563	448	387
Denver Broncos	9	7	0.563	302	327
San Diego Ch'gers	6	10	0.375	358	462
Kansas City Chiefs	6	10	0.375	386	367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	TPCT	PF	PA
Washington Reds	14	2	0.875	541	332
Dallas Cowboys	12	4	0.750	479	360
St Louis Cardinals	8	7	1.531	374	428
Philadelphia E	5	11	0.313	233	322
New York Giants	3	12	1.218	267	347

CENTRAL	W	L	TPCT	PF	PA
Detroit Lions	9	7	0.583	347	286
Green Bay P	8	8	0.500	429	439
Chicago Bears	8	8	0.500	311	301
Minnesota Vikings	8	8	0.500	316	349
Tampa Bay Bucc's	2	14	0.125	241	380

WEST	W	L	TPCT	PF	PA
San Francisco 49	10	6.	0.625	432	293
Los Angeles R	9	7.	0.563	361	344
New Orleans S	8	8.	0.500	319	337
Atlanta Falcons	7	9.	0.438	370	389

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Calgary Flames 7, Winnipeg Jets 6.
MOSCOW: Izvestia tournament: Sweden 5, Finland 1.

NORDIC SKIING

DAVOS (Sitzerland): Men's: 15km cross-country: 1, N Zimiatov (USSR), 40mins 32.4secs; 2, V Sachnow (USSR), 40:32.9; 3, T Morgren (Swe), 40:32.16. Women's 5km: 1, A Boe (Nor), 15:19.8; 2, K Jerlova (Czech), 15:19.13; 3, J Stepanova (USSR), 15:19.19.

Monday's results

FA CUP: Second round replays: Bournemouth 2, Windsor 0; Burnley 3, Chesterfield 2; Sheffield U 1, Lincoln 0.
MILK CUP: Fourth round, second replay: Oxford U 2, Manchester U 1.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Chorley 3, Oswestry 2; Norwich 0, Burton Albion 0.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Wolverhampton Wanderers 1, Manchester City 3.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Northampton Town 1, Bradford 2.
WELSH CUP: Third round: Worcester 1, Wrexham 2.
LINCOLNSHIRE SENIOR CUP: First round Grantham 4, Scunthorpe United 0.

SKIING

Stenmark's Cup ambition lifted by another victory

Madonna di Campiglio, (Reuter) - The triple World cup winner Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden returned to the scene of his first World Cup win 1974 to score a clear victory in the slalom race here yesterday, to stay on course to achieve his aim of winning the slalom world cup this season. His second win in the discipline in just over a week put him top of the slalom standings with 50 points.

"I'm in good shape" Stenmark said. "My motivation is good because I didn't train too much. At my age you don't need it".

Stenmark, aged 27, dominated both legs of the event. Leading after the first leg, the Swede coolly produced the fastest second leg to clock a total winning time of 1 min 36.89 sec for his 74th World Cup Victory. The pre-race rankings were upset by the Austrian Robert Zoller. A surprise second in the first leg, Zoller, high number starter confirmed his return to fitness after a ligament injury last season by holding on to his place despite almost running into a gate near the bottom of the course.

Third place was taken by Bulgarian Peter Popangelov, who improved on his seventh place in the first leg, and the Itian Alex Giorgi delighted the crowd with an aggressive second run that pushed him into fourth place ahead of the Swede Stig Strand, who dropped from third place on the first leg.

Notable absentees were the American twins Phil and Steve Mahre, who returned home last week to prepare for their traditional burst of form at the end of January.

The steep course, dropping 170 metres, was too much for the Swiss prodigy Pirmin Zurbriggen, aged 20, who stood to pick up vital points from the combination with his win in the Val Gardena super giant slalom on Monday. The young Swiss, clearly feeling the pressure to produce a good result, skied off in the first leg while trying too hard to make up time lost in the early stages.

The combined honours went to the former world cup champion Andreas Wenzel of Liechtenstein, whose ninth place yesterday conmbined with his sixth in Monday's super giant slalom.

Zurbriggen has kept his overall top place in the World Cup standings with 97 points with his compatriot Franz Heinzer second on 87, but Wenzel has moved into third place on 85 ahead of Stenmark (59).

RESULTS: 1, I Stenmark (Sw), 1min 36.89sec; 2, R Zoller (Aus), 1:37.09; 3, P Popangelov (Bul), 1:37.58; 4, A Giorgi (It), 1:37.78; 5, S Strand (Sw), 1:37.86; 6, B Krizaj (Yugo), 1.37.90; 7, M Julen (Swit), 1:38.35; 8, F Gruber (Aus), 1:38.44; 9, A Wenzel (Liech), 1:38.45; 10, O Kodama (Jap), 1:38.67; 11, F Beck (WG), 1:39.02; 12, T Cerkovnik (Yugo), 1:39.43; 13, G Mader (Aus), 1:39.44; 14, J Gaspoz (Swit), 1:39.48; 15, T Kaiwa (Jap), 1:39.79.
SLALOM STANDINGS: 1, Stenmark 50pts; 2, Popangelov 35; 3, Wenzel 32; equal 4, Krizaj and Gruber, 30.
OVERALL STANDINGS: 1, Zurbriggen 97pts; 2, Heinzer 87; 3, Wenzel 85; 4, Stenmark 59; 5, U Raeber (Swit) 58.

● Haus, Austria, (AFP) – The women's World Cup downhill race, which was in doubt because of adverse weather conditions, will go ahead today as planned. Mild weather and rain had ealier threatened a change in the programme for both today and Thursday. However, after inspecting the cause the jury decided that racing can take place.

Had the conditions continued, the downhill would have been put back 24 hours, which would have meant the cancellation of tommorow's giant slalom.

● Toronto (Reuter) – The Canadian skiers have returned home for their Christmas break from early season races in Europe confident they can win the World Cup downhill title. Todd Brooker leads the standings after twice finishing runner-up in the early races and he said: "I am having a lot more fun. I've also eased off a little in training to save a little for race days."

The former World Cup downhill champion, Steve Podborski, is fifth. "Knowing that the pre-Christmas races really haven't been ideal for our abilities – relatively slow, soft snow, relatively easy – is all the better," he said.



Stenmark: fastest man on two legs

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group Four: Yugoslavia v Bulgaria (3.0).

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Boston v Wealdstone.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Southport v Workington.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern division: RS Southampton v Crawley.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa v Burnley (7.0); Blackburn v West Bromwich (7.3); Bolton v Newcastle (7.0); Nottingham Forest v Stoke (7.0). Second division: Port Vale v Middlesbrough (7.0).

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Leicester v Brighton (2.0); Millwall v Swansea (2.0); Oxford v Charlton; Reading v Birmingham.

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round and replay: Minehead v Dorchester.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Second division: Molesey v Hungerford.

MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Northampton v Brentford.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Abertillery v Cross Keys (7.0); Newport v Gloucester (7.0); Pontypool v Tredegar (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY: East Anglian League (Thetford).

RACKETS: Public schools singles championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington, 9.0).

SKIING CONDITIONS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to Resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Arosa	45	60	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	−2
Grindelwald	10	30	Worn	Varied	Closed	Fine	+1
More snow is needed for all runs							
Igls	5	65	Worn	Varied	Closed	Fair	+2
New snow on hard base							
Isola 2000	45	100	Good	Crust	Good	Cloud	0
Snow forecast tonight							
Kitzbühel	5	80	Good	Varied	Closed	Fine	−1
New snow on upper slopes							
Mürren	45	60	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	0
Worn patches on some runs							
La Plagne	10	50	Good	Powder	Fair	Cloudy	−5
Good skiing but need more snow							
Seefeld	30	50	Fair	Spring	Poor	Fog	1
New snow on hard base							
St Anton	35	85	Powder	Fair	Fair	-	−1
Good powder skiing							
Tignes	65	105	Good	Fair	Good	Fine	0
Some rocks showing							
Andorra	50	60	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	−4
Limited runs more snow needed							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

MOTOR RACING

The 1984 Lotus has a leaner look

By John Blunsden

"There will be no excuses, there are no unknowns and we have to deliver." That was the message of Peter Warr, general manager of John Player Team Lotus, at the unveiling in Paris yesterday of the Lotus Grand Prix challenger for 1984, the JPS 95T.

"It is now approximately a year since the death of Colin Chapman and, not surprisingly, we have been through a somewhat traumatic 12 months. The character of the team has had to change but we have found our new indentity and we have our new style of management."

The cars which Nigel Mansell and Eliot De Angelis will be driving next year looks superficially similar to the 94Ts they used in the latter part of this year. However, they are very different beneath the skin. Gerard Ducarouge has designed a car smaller, lighter and slimmer than its predecessor.

Part of the size reduction has been brought about by the restriction in the maximum fuel tankage to 220 litres, but the much neater packaging of the latest version of the Renault turbo-charged engine, with its turbo-chargers and intercoolers mounted vertically, has also contributed to the leaner look.

The Lotus team have decided to return to Goodyear tyres and the 95T has been fitted with Italian-made Brembo brakes all round. The suspension is basically similar to that of the previous car except that the rocker-arm front layout has been replaced with a pull-rod system which offers cleaner aerodynamics.

Nigel Mansell, frustrated at the team's lack of wins this year, was full of enthusiasm yesterday. "Peter Warr has put a great package together for 1984 and Gerard Ducarouge's new design looks like it will be a winner. He has taken full advantage of the new fuel regulations and he has worked hard on the aerodynamics."

Olympic couple seek out the climate of success

In search of heat and dust

Malcolm and Sarah Cooper, the husband and wife international shooting team, will set out on Friday on a 26,000 mile round trip in search of a combination of intense heat, dust and wind.

The Coopers are to spend five weeks in Paralowie, South Australia, experiencing the sort of testing conditions they will have to overcome in California next year if they are to climb the medal rostrum in the Olympic games.

"The Olympic shooting range will be about 40 miles inland from Los Angeles," said Mrs Cooper. "The temperature will go up around 100 degrees and the dust, glare and wind will make it extremely difficult. It was absolutely vital for us to train in similar conditions."

She said that they had looked at a number of locations, but Australia came out top. "Apart from the climate, it was important to go to an English-speaking country because of all the questions that are raised when you are carrying rifles.

"We will be staying at the home of Yvonne Hill, an Australian teacher who is very likely to be selected for her Olympic team. She is pleased we are going as it gives her a chance of some valuable competition."

The trip is likely to cost around £3,000, although some of the outlay will be covered by grants from the Sports Aid Foundation and the British Olympic Association.

"We have emptied the building society account, but it will be worth it", said Mrs Cooper, 34 who, with her husband, works in a sports goods company. "Thankfully, British Airways are helping with excess baggage."



Target: The Los Angeles Games

The couple first met at a shooting range 14 years ago when she was in the WRNS. This year Mrs Cooper beat her husband into second place in the British Senior Open air rifle championship, winning by three points. Her husband was prompted to say: "Enjoy it – you will not get another chance to beat me in the championship."

Women's shooting will be part of the Olympic programme for the first time next year. They will have three events, two of them for rifle shooting – 50 metres standard, three positions and the 10 metre air rifle, 40 shots standing.

"I am very excited about the prospect of competing in the games for the first time", said Mrs Cooper. Both she and her husband should gain a place in the British squad, to be selected after a series of international matches next summer.

Malcolm has competed in two Olympic games, in 1972 and 1976, but his best chance of a medal disappeared when the shooters boycotted the 1980 games. "I believe I am shooting better than ever before, so I have high hopes of a medal, although the rest of the world have also improved", added Malcolm.

RACING

Burrough Hill Lad can underline his Chepstow chance

By Michael Phillips

Today's meeting at Lingfield Park was given the go-ahead yesterday after the stewards had inspected the course midway through the afternoon. However, they added the proviso that it would only take place if there was no heavy rain during the night. So, clearly the meeting rests in the lap of the gods and so does the one at Worcester where there will be an inspection at 7.30 this morning.

Jenny Pitman has taken the precaution of declaring Burrough Hill Lad, the ante-post favourite for the Welsh National at Chepstow on December 27, for the St Nicholas Handicap Steeplechase at Worchester as well as the Mac Vidi Perpetual Challenge Trophy at Lingfield. However, Burrough Hill Lad and John Francome will switch to the Midlands course only in the event of Loingfield being abandoned.

Burrough Hill Lad's only race this season was over hurdles at Nottingham earlier this month and Mrs Pitman is understandably keen for him to jump fences at racing pace again before his important date at Chepstow. A leg injury restricted Burrough Hill Lad to just three races last season.

What that highly promising race over hurdles at Nottingham showed was that he has made a complete recovery and is once more in the sort of form that enabled him to win good races at Stratford and Ascot last season as well as finishing second to Silver Buck in the Edward Hanmer Memorial Steeplechase at Haydock. In that case he should be hard to beat this afternoon

If Lingfield is on, Francome can also win the Plum Pudding Steeplechase on Observe at the expense of the course specialist, Straight Jocelyn, whose seven victories there include one in this same race 12 months ago.

Fred Winter has declared Observe to run wearing blinkers for thefirst time in public. He has worn them already at home while being schooled over the practice fences on the downs above Lambourn. Winter feels that they are now necessary because Francome reported that Observe was "pulling his leg" and not giving his all during that recent controversial race at Chepstow. There Francome used his whip to wake him up and incurred the wrath of the stewards for doing so quite as hard as he did.

Meanwhile, at Worcester. Dramatist's chance of winning the St Nicholas Handicap Steeplechase will be improved immeasurably if Burrough Hill Lad stays away.

Speedy Bee, my selection for the second division of the Christmas Novices Steeplechase, was jumping well and still going well at Haydock Park last Thursday in the race won by Red Mills when he slipped

Saxon Farm hurt

Stan Mellor's hurdler, Saxon Farm, may not run this season, and will miss the Champion Hurdle. Winner of this year's Triumph Hurdle. Saxon Farm injured himself at the weekend.



Here's mud in your eye: apprentice Andrew Small depicts racing's less glamorous side after pulling up in the Folkestone seller (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Lingfield Park

GOING: chase course, soft; hurdles, heavy.

Tote double: 1.30, 2.30. Treble: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0.

12.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £1,095: 2m) (21 runners)

1	111	JACK RAMSEY (D) (M Stewkesbury) M McCormack 11-11	P Barton
2	010	LUCK KNIGHT (D Hunnisett) B Swift 11-1	R Campbell 4
3	010	TEDDINGTON JEWEL (R Frost) R Frost 11-1	J Frost
4		ACCLAIM (J Henderson) N Henderson 10-10	-
7		BE ON TIME (L Sainer) F Winter 10-10	J Francome
8	4	BREEZY GLEN (D Kelly) A Jarvis 10-10	S Smith Eccles
12		GALLANT BUCK (J Stott) D Elsworth 10-10	J H Davies
14		GORDONUS (R Cheetham) J Jenkins 10-10	-
16		MATARANY (R McMillan) H Beasley 10-10	M Furlong
21		OULA OWL (Mrs C Clatworthy) J Gifford 10-10	R Rowe
23	014	PRINCESS HENHAM (D) (J Smith) N Callaghan 10-10	G Bradley
25		QUITE A NIGHT (G Radmore) D Oughton 10-10	P Double
26	3	RAGGED ROBIN (S St Burridge) D Elsworth 10-10	C Brown
29		SOENKA'S HUSSAR (B) (Mrs D Blackburn) Mrs R Lomax 10-10	A Carroll
30		SHENTON WAY (Miss W Redman) J Jenkins 10-10	-
31	010	WHENEVER (D) (P Williams) D Barons 10-10	J Frost
32		WINTER SPORT (M Myers) M Usher 10-10	M Bastard
37		PARADISE STRAITS (Miss J Lane) S Woodman 10-5	-
39		RESEEKER (J Parish) P Butler 10-5	G Newman
41		SUMMER LIGHTNING (Mrs J Owen) W Wightman 10-5	M Harrington
42		TOM'S COMEDY (T Staddon) W Williams 10-5	R Millman 4

7-4 Princess Henham, 9-2 Lucky Knight, 5 Jack Ramsey, 8 Quite A Night, 9 Be On Time, 10 Oula Owl, 16 Ragged Robin, 25 others.

1.0 BRANDY BUTTER CHASE (selling: novices: £785: 2m) (11)

1	0-01020	ALLADO (A Neaves) A Neaves 7-11-0	C Warren 7
2	0FF3-40	BROGUE (K Higson) A Moore 7-11-0	G Moore
3	P030-00	CITY MARATHON (J Fifth-Hayes) J Fitch-Hayes 5-11-0	-
5	00-0003	FIRE CHIEFTAIN (W Roker) M Madgwick 5-11-0	A Madgwick 4
6	P000-00	FLEDGE (K Cundell) P Cundell 5-11-0	C Brown
7	4/0P-0U	HELTON TARN (Mrs N Parish) P Butler 7-11-0	G Newman

[illegible]

1.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £1,097: 2m) (21)

[illegible]

2.0 PLUM PUDDING CHASE (£1,436: 2m 4f) (4)

[illegible]

2.30 MAC VIDI TROPHY (handicap chase: £2,830: 3m) (16)

[illegible]

3.0 MINCE MEAT CHASE (handicap: £1,450: 2m) (8)

[illegible]

13	34F2-0B	OYSTER POND (D) (K Clarke) M McCourt 6-10-3	C Brown
15	F01F4P-	GOLDENOGAN (J Frost) R Armytage 8-10-0	Mr M Armytage 7

6-4 Broadleas, 5-2 Ballyross, 5 Tower Moss, 7 Cloncormick, 12 Goldenogan, 15 others.

3.30 GOODWILL HURDLE (handicap: £1,150: 2m) (16)

3	11040	NAVAJO BRAVE (R Jones) R Hoad 5-11-9	Mr M Hoad 7
4	20200-0	TAFFY JONES (P Hayes) M McCormack 4-11-3	P Barton
5	40320/F	PHARAOH'S OWN (J Davis) J Baker 6-11-2	S Smith Eccles
7	034-021	HAYAKAZE (D) (Ld Vestey) D Nicholson 4-11-2	N Madden
15	40-0	KINGS SOLDIER (G Dunne) J Jenkins 4-10-9	J Francome
16	324-11F	SARAH'S VENTURE (D) (Mrs J Jackson) C Horgan 4-10-8	R Mancini 7
18	1	ON THE WARPATH (Mrs E Boucher) D Oughton 4-10-5	R Rowe
19	42/0-00	ISANEMOS (Mrs G Bonethan) D Barons 5-10-6	J Frost
20	4020-30	CRESUN (J Bolam) S Woodman 4-10-6	-
24	00000-	FALKLAND CONQUEROR (Conley Properties Ltd) G Kindersley 5-10-3	A Webber
28	000P0-0	BREEZE HILL (D Barling) A Moore 4-10-1	G Moore
35	02-0120	KASHILL (D) (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-10-0	M Hammond 4
38	0034P4-	KNIGHTSBRIDGE GAME (D Wilson) D Wilson 4-10-0	K Caplen 7
40	0000-00	BIHAS BOUNTY (B) (D Goodwin) D Goodwin 7-10-0	I Cox
43	0-F4000	DARTCAN (W Pooley) D Tucker 4-10-0	M Coyle
45	0000	CRUISE ON (E Farrant) E Farrant 4-10-0	R Rowell

9-4 Hayakaze, 11-4 On The Warpath, 9-2 Sarah's Venture, 6 Cresun, 10 King's Soldier, 14 Navajo Brave, 20 others.

Lingfield selections

By Michael Phillips

12.30 Princess Henham, 1.0 The Totum, 1.30 Burgos, 2.0 Observe, 2.30 Burrough Hill Lad, 3.0 Galileo, 3.30 Sarah's Venture.

Ludlow results

Going: Good

12.0 BURGUNDY CHASE (Div I: novices: £840: 2m)

HEVER br g by Tudor Melody-Queen's Castle(Mrs P Fasey) 8-11-4.. P Leach (5-1) 1
Stowell Grove .... P Scudamore (8-1) 2
Thomond Prince .... Mr J Weston(33-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £14 10 Places: £2.20, £1.20, £12.70. DF. £18 40. CSF: £37.88. M Pipe at Wellington. 12l,5l. Burns 4-6 fav. Withymans Pool (33-1) 4th. 12 ran.

12.30 AMONTILLADO HURDLE Selling handicap: (conditional jockeys: £518: 2m)

DERBYSHIRE FILET b m by Pelso Lad-Red Biddy (A Mcindo) 6-10-9 . P Croucher (6-1) 1
The Knife .... J Duggan(8-1) 2
Hive Be Good .... M Caswell (3-1 fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £5.50. Places: £1.60, £2.80. £3.20. DF: £6.50. CSF: £48.80. J Roberts at Tiverton. 2l, 2l. Probabilist (9-2) 4th. 9 ran.

1.0 RUM PUNCH HURDLE (Div. I: 3-y-o: £483: 2m)

BROAD BEAM b g by Averof-Angel Beam (J Jennings) 10-7 .... S Morshead (8-1) 1
Brown Rifle .... W Knox (12-1) 2
Enrigel .... J O'Neill(8-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £12.60. Places: £4.00, £1.10, £2.60. DF: £59.60. CSF: £94.92. Mrs M Rimell at Severn Stoke. 8l, 12l. Nestor 15-8 fav. Amber Windsor (16-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Eric's Wish.

1.30 BURGUNDY CHASE (Div II: novices: £838: 2m)

ROMANY NIGHTSHADE b g by Deadly Nightshade – Romany Queen (R Stead), 7-11-4 .... H Davies (11-4 fav) 1
The County Stone .... P Scudamore (4-1) 2
Dishcloth .... J Bryan (8-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £2.90. Places: £1.30, £1.40, £2.20. DF: £6.10. CSF: £12.19. T Forster at Wantage. 8l, 15l. Mossey Moore (4-1) 4th. 12 ran.

2.0 RUM PUNCH HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £483: 2m)

ATAMAN – ch c by Ashmore-Salenis (M Pipe) 10-7 .... P Leach (9-2) 1
No Bulls .... J O'Neill(12-1) 2
Seagram .... J Frost(14-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £6.20. Places: £3.40, £1.60, £4 40. DF. £58.20. CSF: £53 38. M Pipe at Wellington. Sh Hd. 10L. Penlyne Trooper 3-1 fav Learetic (20-1) 4th. 18 ran.

2.30 VINTAGE PORT CHASE (Handicap: £1,276: 3m)

LAURENSUN ch g by Laurence O – Sundrum Girl (Mrs C Black) 8-11-2 Mr J Weston (9-1) 1
Another Plater .... R Stronge (7-1) 2
Applejo .... J Goodwin (6-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £7.10. Places: £1.40, £2.30, £3.70. DF: £41.40. CSF: £71 78. Tricast: £387.23. M Oliver at Droitwich. Nk, 7l. Celtic Brew 2-1 fav. Ablata (33-1) 4th. 14 ran.

3.0 CLARET HURDLE (handicap: £1,182: 2m)

SWEETCAL b m by Caliban – Honey House (G Sumner) 6-10-11 .....S Morshead (12-1) 1
Upper Note .... H Davies(14-1) 2
Sea Pennant .... C Evans(10-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £59.70. Places: £3.40, £2.20, £10.80. DF: £306.80. CSF: £162.16. Tricast: £1,590.12. P Cundell at Newbury. 4l, 2½l. Johns Present 9-2 jt-fav. Bold Illusion (9-2 jt fav. 20 ran

Placepot: £284.10

Sangster race approved

The Irish Turf Club approved a plan by a syndicate led by Robert Sangster to sponsor a £250,000 race at Phoenix park next July.

After a meeting attended by Vincent O'Brien, the trainer, and John Magnier, the stud owner, both representing the sponsoring syndicate, and Jonathan Irwin and Paddy Tighe, respectively chief executive and manager at Phoenix Park, the club announced that they were "anxious to facilitate the running of the proposed race and will endeavour to obtain group status for it".

The stewards added that: "Towards this end they will have discussions on the matter with their counterparts in England, France, West Germany and Italy".

Folkestone results

Going: chase course; soft; hurdles, heavy

11.45 ALDINGTON CHASE (Div I: novices: £920: 2m)

ROCK SAINT ch g by St Columbus – Moon Venture (G Gregson) 6-11-0.G Newman (6-1) 1
John Brush .... R Rowe(11-8 fav) 2
Sir Eamon .... J Lovejoy(7-2) 3

TOTE: Win: £15.50. Places: £2.50, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £3.20. CSF: £15.22. G Gregson at Cranleigh. ¾l, 3l. Glenjade (20-1) 4th. 10 ran.

12.15 STANFORD HURDLE (Div I: novices: £518: 2m 110yd)

CLAUDIUS CROZET b c by Halo – Imra Roan (G Huffer) 4-11-0....M Rimmer (10-1) 1
Seabattle .... R Rowe (6-1) 2
Corn Street .... Mr M Bosley (13-8 fav) 3

TOTE: Win: £15.00. Places: £6.90, £5.60, £1.70. DF: £118.50. CSF: £98.82. G Huffer at Newmarket. 2l, 1l. Somerasday (25-1) 4th. 18 ran. NR Haballoo, Gillie's Prince.

12.45 NO SILVER HURDLE (novices: £518: 2m 5f)

MISTER LORD b g by Sir Ivor – Forest Friend (S Tindall) 4-11-0......M Perrett (4-1) 1
Work Mate .... S Smith-Eccles (9-4 fav) 2
Deep In Debt .... J Lovejoy (7-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £4 40. Places: £1.60. £1 70. £2.90. DF: £7.50. CSF: £15.53. S Mellor at Lambourn. 1½l, 10l. Majestic Cue (14-1) 4th. 15 ran. NR Aspen Flare, Kristen.

1.15 ALDINGTON CHASE (Div II: Novices: £914: 2m)

BRAVE HUSSAR ch g by Brigadier Gerard – Triana (H Joel) 5-11-0............R Rowe (4-1) 1
Gay Tent .... S Smith-Eccles (10-1) 2
Claude Monet .... P Barton (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win. £3.40. Places: £1.00, £3 90, £1.70. DF: £28.10. CSF: £44.51. J Gifford at Findon. 5l, 15l. Landing Board Evens fav. Willetts Farm Boy (12-1) 4th. 9 ran.

1.45 SELLINDGE HURDLE (Selling handicap: £681: 2m 110yds)

BELL HOP b g by Connaught – Haybells (R Kernan) 7-11-10 .... C Brown (6-1) 1
Greatest Hits .... J Francome (3-1 jt-fav) 2
Blackboosh .... Mr M Bosley (7-2) 3

TOTE: Win: £10.20. Places: £1.90, £1.30, £2.00. DF: £18.30. CSF: £30.11. Tricast: £77.17. B Stevens at Bramley. 2l, 6l. Pompous Prince 3-1 jt-fav. Military Crown (12-1) 4th. 15 ran.

2 15 HEATHFIELD CHASE (Handicap: £1,031 3m 2f)

SAUNDERS br g by Menelek – Tyrone (Mrs A Lacey) 8-10-10 .... P Hobbs (12-1) 1
Saunders .... J Lovejoy (4-1) 2
Physicist .... R Rowe (9-2) 3

TOTE: Win: £23.90. Places. £2.30. £2 40. £1.70. DF. £42.40. CSF: £50.33. Tricast £234 84. I Dudgeon at Warminster. 3l, nk. The Somac 7-2 fav. Bujoji (12-1) 4th. 13 ran. NR. Viewed Away.

2.45 SHADDOXHURST (Handicap. Conditional Jockeys: £962: 2m 110yd)

LE LAVADOR br g by Levanter – Adored (D L Hull) 4-10-8 .... T Williams(25-1) 1
Dalbury .... P Corrigan (6-1) 2
Beaming Lass .... B Powell (14-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £39.00. Places. £2.50. £2.60. £7.40. DF: £148.40. CSF: £176.36. Tricast: £2,046.79. Mrs R Lomax at Marlborough. 8l, ½l. Norfolk Pageant 3-1 fav. Topon (8-1) fourth. 14 ran.

3.15 STANFORD HURDLE (Div II. Novices. £518. 2m 110yd)

IKOYI SUNSET ch g by Golden Dipper – Country Club (G Ellis) 4-11-0.J Francombe (4-1 jt fav) 1
Wily Yeoman .... R Rowe (12-1) 2
Muslab .... A Webber (11-2) 3

TOTE: Win: £3.20. Places: £1.80, £5.60, £1.50. DF: £27.10. CSF: £53.42. S Woodman at Chichester. 12l, 2l. No-U-Turn 4-1 jt fav Eurolink Boy (11-1) 4th. 18 ran. NR: Noble Philp, Tudor Jester. Placepot: £26 10

● Mark Rimmer, the 21-year-old Newmarket apprentice with 83 flat wins to his credit, made his first National Hunt ride a winner at Folkestone, yesterday on the one-eyed Claudius Crozet, for his employer, Geoff Huffer. Only 250 paying customers – Folkestone's lowest ever attendance – braved the elements.

Worcester

GOING: Soft.

12.15 CHRISTMAS CHASE (Div I: novices: £1,214: 3m) (13 runners)

2	00/0-00	ARMY SCOUT (Mrs J Mould) B Stevens 6-10-12	R Stonge 4
4	203000-	BANNOCK PRINCE (K Bishop) K Bishop 5-10-12	J Hurst 7
6	200-p	BOOK OF PROVERBS (P Savill) F Winter 5-10-12	B de Haan
10	0p0f-3p	EXTRACTOR (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 6-10-12	-
16	400-00r	MEMBER'S RELISH (B) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 5-10-12	P Scudamore
18	pupp02-	NORTH LANE (A House) K Bishop 6-10-12	P Richards
20	040f34	PUBLIC RELATIONS (B) (R Manning) R Manning 6-10-12	E Waite

[illegible]

12.45 TURKEY HURDLE (Div I: novices: £690: 2m) (22)

[illegible]

1.15 CHRISTMAS CHASE (Div II: novices: £1,214: 3m) (13)

[illegible]

1.45 CHAMPAGNE HURDLE (Selling: 4-y-o: £573: 2m 2f) (21)

[illegible]

2.15 SAINT NICHOLAS CHASE (Handicap: £2,026: 3m) (18)

[illegible]

29	f0000-0	STORMY SPRING (Miss J Tainton) D Nicholson 8-10-0	N Madden
31	/33000-	STAR MEMBER (R Hawker) R Hawker 8-10-0	M Richards 4
32	000p13-	FOXWELL (Mrs S Pearson) G Jones 9-10-0	G Jones

7-2 Bonum Omen, 4 Dramatist, 6 Very Light, 10 Triska, Galway Blaze, 12 Bickleigh Bridge, 16 others.

2.45 HOLLY AND IVY CHASE (Handicap: conditional jockeys: £1,027: 2m) (14)

1	2f31-43	LUCYFAR (D) (R Smith) F Walwyn 7-12-3	R Pusey
5	004-000	BUTTON BOY (CD) (B) (Mrs J Salter) N Ayliffe 10-11-0	B Powell
6	10304-1	GENEROUS BID (D) (B) (Mrs K Lloyd) J Wright 8-10-13	P Croucher
7	10f000-	HERONFORD (D) (Mrs V McKeon) J Townson 13-10-13	R T Jones
8	034-3p1	SPACE BRIDGE (CD) (G Jones) G Jones 9-10-11	-
9	110044	DUNDRUM BAY (CD) (G Bradshaw) A Barrow 8-10-11	P Sims
10	0234-	UNSUNG (W Dempsey) R Holder 9-10-10	N Coleman
11	1ppp0-0	FLASHY'S PAL (C) (R Hickman) R Hickman 6-10-8	C Chinn
12	42110b	METELA (T Pocock) R Pocock 7-10-4	C McIlfatrick
13	0p0-p00	CARLINGFORD LOUGH (Meehan & Co) G Richards 7-10-1	D Coakley
14	41-u3	GRANDOGAN (E Houlihan) J FitzGerald 8-10-0	P Dever
15	/0-f004	THE PROPHET (T Pocock) R Pocock 6-10-0	N Nuttall
16	ppf-p	BEAUVALLEY (R Edwards) R Edwards 9-10-0	P Christopher
17	0-0024p	SIR LESTER (J Thomas) J Thomas 7-10-0	C Evans

11-4 Space Bridge, 100-30 Lucyfar, 4 Generous Bid, 13-2 Grandogan, 8 Metela, 10 Unsung, 14 others.

3.15 TURKEY HURDLE (Div II: novices: £690: 2m (22)

1	0-13000	FOOLISH HOOLEY (D) (E Bevan) E Bevan 6-11-8	K Mooney
2	0	BRAMBLINGS (Mrs M Tustin) D Nicholson 5-11-3	P Scudamore
5		DRUMADOWNEY (T Forster 5-11-3	H Davies
6	0-	DUSKY KNIGHT (J Tilley) D Nicholson 5-11-3	N Madden
7	0/0-	CLYDE COURT (C Cronin) F Winter 6-11-3	B de Haan
8	p04/	GOLDEN BRIGADIER (Mrs S Bingley) J Old 5-11-3	S Morshead
10	p-p	HARPURSTOWN (Mrs S Oliver) Mrs S Oliver 6-11-3	Miss S Oliver 7
17	0	AYLE HERO (Mrs L Dresher) J Webber 4-11-0	G McCourt
19		CRIMSON KNIGHT (Cherry Tree Stables) S Harris 4-11-0	P Hobbs
20	0-	CRUMBS (W Ponsonby) F Walwyn 4-11-0	S Shilston
21		DANISH EXPRESS (E Hayward) J Bradley 4-11-0	G Davies
24	4034	INCA THIEF (Rotolok Ltd) S May 4-11-0	S May
26		KANO FLOWER (A Barrow) A Barrow 4-11-0	Lorna Vincent
29	p0	SILLY SOUK (H Burridge) B Paling 4-11-0	A Griffiths 7
30		SKYBOOT (Mrs B Robinson) J Townson 4-11-0	D Dutton
32	0	THRYLOS (County Garages) A Chamberlain 4-11-0	A Chamberlain 4
34		GENTLE PERSIAN (M Winmill) D Burchell 5-10-12	W Knox 7
35	f	GRACEFUL KELLY (C Underwood) B Paling 6-10-12	C Evans 7
36		KINDLY THOUGHT (G Maundrell) G Maundrell 5-10-12	Mr G Maundrell
37		PYJAMA GAME (Mrs D Cheshire) Mrs E Kennard 6-10-12	P Stone 7
41		CORAL DELIGHT (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 4-10-9	Mr A J Wilson
42		MAYBE MAISEY (Miss E Grimwade) B Venn 4-10-9	Mr B Venn

4 Skyboot, 9-2 Crumbs, 5 Bramblings, 8 Inca Thief, 10 Glyde Court, 12 Golden Brigadier, 14 Kano Flower, 16 others.

Worcester selections

By Michael Phillips

12.15 Trust the King, 12.45 Hazy Sunset, 1.15 Speedy Bee, 1.45 Blackboosh, 2.15 Burrough Hill Lad (if abs Dramatist), 2.45 Generous Bid, 3.15 Bramblings.

Oxford University Awards

The following awards have been made:

WORCESTER COLLEGE

Scholarships: Classics: J M Nicolson, Winchester; M J P Coburn, Charterhouse; H J A Stanford, Eton

History: R Osmond, Wellington C

English: J W Anderson, Shrewsbury; Lucy E Bannister, Dame Alice Harpur S Bedford; N D B King, Radley C

Mathematics: J D Parsons, Guildford S

Chemistry: P J Briant, Winchester

Music: Helen C Whitaker, King's HS, Warwick; Sarah A Cockell, Xaverian C, Manchester (instrumental); E G D Susbridge, Ripon GS (Choral, for Chemistry).

Law: L A Mazis, Royal GS, Colchester.

Fine Art: A J W Moulding, Knutsford County HS and Mid-Cheshire C of Art and Design.

Exhibitions: History: M J Turner, St Birinus S, Didcot.

Modern Languages: J N Charrington, Eton; N Larking, Sir Wm Borlase's S, Marlow; N G Mallinson, Bradford GS

Mathematics: M D Dobson, Pocklington S

Geology: H F Mingard, Purley Boys' HS

Theology: R J Shortt, Oundle S.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics: Ariane Adolph, Stanborough S, Welwyn Gdn City; N. Levy, Highgate S

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Classics: Waddington scholarship: A V Graham, Brighton and Hove HS; Scholarship: D K Adam, Colchester RGS.

Modern History: Stiebel Scholarship: D Bogler, Oundle S; Exhibition: D H Arbuthnot, Ampleforth

Modern History and Modern Languages: Freeston Scholarship: A Menon, Qu Elizabeth's GS, Wakefield

Modern Languages: Scholarship: S R Johnson, Manchester GS

[illegible]

Residential Property/Christopher Warman

Conveyancing: a DIY way

There is a pre-Christmas lull in the housing market, with few houses coming up for sale as people concentrate on other financial commitments, and it is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in activity before the spring, according to the latest survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

In that case, it might be appropriate to think of Christmas instead, and to suggest a present – a Do-it-yourself conveyancing kit. Endless hours of fun for all the family, except for the unfortunate person who has to play the solicitor, perhaps.

The kit is one of a number of developments on conveyancing emerging in the wake of the House Buyers' Bill. Though Mr Austin Mitchell's Bill won its second reading in the House of Commons last Friday, the Government has its own proposals aimed at improving conveyancing law and practice, and the chances for the House Buyers' Bill must be slim indeed.

Given that the Government's proposals retain the solicitors' monopoly, any alternative – be it do-it-yourself or a non-solicitor conveyancer – should probably carry a government health warning.

You must be super-confident

Until five years ago, the percentage of work done by non-solicitor conveyancers amounted to no more than 1 per cent, but by last year, which saw some 1,300,000 moves by home-owners, the figure had increased to an estimated 2 per cent, a significant increase.

The monopoly extends only to the deed of transfer, which must be prepared by a solicitor, barrister or notary public, or by a person doing the conveyancing work on his own home.

When moving home, the two main concerns in this most expensive of transactions are the level of competence of the person carrying out the work and the insurance if something goes wrong. The Law Society, representing the 44,000 practising solicitors, is convinced that only its qualified solicitors satisfy both criteria.

The National Association of Conveyancers, set up five years ago to represent non-solicitor conveyancers, regards its qualifications, based largely on experience, as often superior to that of solicitors, while claiming its insurance is "watertight".

The do-it-yourself conveyancer, if he or she is prepared to take on the ghastliness of it all, must be super-confident of his or her competence. Help is now at hand, and the various ways of tackling the project all claim to have full insurance cover.

The Householders' Association, which offers a service of consumer advice and protection, has this month published its *Insurance-backed DIY Conveyancing Kit*. The association emphasizes that DIY conveyancing is neither illegal or unethical, but has traditionally been thought of as too complicated to be handled by mere mortals.

The kit is based on *The Conveyancing Fraud*, written by a solicitor, Michael Joseph, which explains how to buy and sell your home without a solicitor. The kit goes through a sale (in 17 steps) and purchase (in 28 steps) from "agree the price" to "completion", and it includes all the forms needed to complete the transaction, including the transfer deed document which is at the centre of the controversy.

If something goes wrong, or if the DIY conveyancer suddenly starts tearing his hair, in desperation, the Householders' Association says it has arranged an insurance policy with Lloyd's of London to cover the cost of the entire matter being taken to completion by a qualified solicitor.

In addition, to cover the possibility of a defective title coming to light later, the householder can be covered for 12 years against loss.

The cost of the kit is £49.95, and the only other costs, according to the association, are for searches and postage, amounting to "£10 at the most". If that is so, and the deal or deals go through without a hitch or heart attack, it must be worth considering for the Christmas stocking. Further information can be gained from The Householders' Association, 251, Lavender Hill, London SW11.

Full insurance cover is also offered to DIY conveyancers by the British Homebuyers Legal Exchange Company. This applies to people who enrol for DIY conveyancing with the British Conveyancing School, whose headquarters is at Sidcup, Kent.

The company is offering full title guarantee insurance through the First American Title Insurance Company, and claims it is a complete answer to the Law Society's assertion that the public are at risk if they do their own conveyancing. Further information from: Enrolment Office, Richard Klinger Complex, Sidcup Kent DA14 5AL.

The National Association of Conveyancers, which has about 30 members, was itself sceptical about the details of the House Buyers' Bill, because it feared it could lead to a free-for-all.

Members are fully covered

Mr David Ashford, association chairman, who acknowledges that he failed the Law Society exams several times, is jealous of the standards set by the association. It demands 10 years' practical experience in conveyancing or five years plus a legal qualification before accepting a member.

In his practice, Mr Ashford charges £120 plus VAT for a house costing £25,000, £165 plus VAT for one costing £40,000, £225 plus VAT on £60,000, and for a house costing £80,000 the fee will be £285 plus VAT. All those charges represent less than ½ per cent, compared with the average 1 per cent charged by solicitors.

The association's members are all fully covered by insurance, and in February it will inaugurate a compensation fund backed by Lloyd's of London, in the case of any person who might suffer loss if the conveyancer ran off with the funds. The National Association of Conveyancers is at 2-4 Chichester Rents, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EG.

I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.
Psalm 108: 3

BIRTHS

BADHAM. - On December 17 at Romsey, to Trisha (nee Lumsden) and Nick - a very fast son (Charles Edward) brother to Richard, Henry, Tommie and Timothy.

BEVAN - On December 17th, to Matilda and Michael - a son (Conor Thomas Hector).

BRENNAN. - On December 19, to Mandy (nee Sims) and Denis - a son (Christopher).

GOWDRIDGE. - On December 18th at Whittington Hospital, Highgate, to Julia (Somerville) and Ray, a son, Joseph John.

HALL. - On December 13th at the Sorrento hospital, Birmingham, to Louise and Andrew Hall, a beautiful daughter (Catherine Anne).

LEBUS. - On December 17, at Westminster Hospital to Christina (nee Fraser) and Timothy - a son (David Oliver).

LITTLE. - On December 16 to Ewa (nee Braier) and Richard - a son (Edward Richard).

PARR - On December 19th, to Helen and Andrew - a daughter (Elizabeth Katherine).

POLLARD. - On December 20, at The Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury, to Linda (nee Evans) and Andrew - a daughter (Heather Elizabeth Jane).

SCOTT. - On December 16 to Sarah and Gregor - a daughter (Sophie Victoria Frances).

TOPLIS. - On December 17 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Philip and Catherine (nee Lasalle) - a son (Gareth Mark) and a daughter - (Laura Sian).

WATTS-RUSSELL - On 12th December in Ayrshire to Susan and David - a daughter, Emily Susan, a sister for Edward and Miranda.

BIRTHDAYS

SPEARS - Happy 12th birthday last Sunday to Nicholas - Mum, Dad, Dominic and Nanny.

MARRIAGES

WHITEHEAD : KELLY. On Saturday 17th December at St Michael's Church, Withyham, Stephen son of Dr & Mrs M. Whitehead and Deborah daughter of Mr & Mrs G Kelly.

DEATHS

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CHRISTMAS DEADLINES

Issue	Deadlines
26 December	NO PAPER
27 December	22 December, 5 pm
28 December	22 December, 5 pm
29 December	22 December, 5 pm
2 January	29 December, 5 pm
3 January	29 December, 5 pm
4 January	29 December, 5 pm

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER of ALDERSGATE PROPERTIES Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948.

NOTICE is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 20th day of January, 1984 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Philip Monjack FCA of 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DATED this [illegible] day of December 1983.

PHILIP MONJACK FCA
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER of BAMBERS [illegible] and in the Matter [illegible]

[illegible]

P. MONJACK
Liquidator

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to [illegible]

[illegible]

Mrs R. KONN
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967
H. S. C. ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTERS Limited
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the COMPANIES ACT, 1948, that a meeting of the Creditors of H. S. C. ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTERS Limited, will be held at 3-4 Bentinck Street London W1A 3BA on Thursday the 5th day of January 1984 at 12 o'clock in the noon for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
Dated this 13th day of December 1983
S GROSS ORC
Director

PENTONVILLE RUBBER COMPANY Limited.
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situated at 3-4 Bentinck Street London W1A 3BA on Monday the 9th day of January 1984 at 12.00 o'clock midday noon, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
DATED the 14th day of December 1983
A. CRAIG
Director

ELRAES (CONTRACTORS) Limited
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situated at 3-4 Bentinck Street London W1A 3BA on Friday the 6th day of January 1984 at 12.00 o'clock midday noon, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.
DATED the 14th day of December 1983
R. J. SEARLE
Director

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

SOUTHWARK CORPORATION 12½% REDEEMABLE STOCK 1987. Barclays Bank PLC, Registration Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9EU. Hereby give notice that in order to prepare the interest due on 15th February 1984 the balances of the several accounts in the above Stock will be struck at the close of business on 16th January 1984

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[illegible]

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

Ceefax AM.

Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours: sport at 6.40 and 8.40; *regional* news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15: television preview at 6.55; review of morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18: Esther Rantzen's That's Life file between 7.30 and 7.45 with a 'phone-in between 8.30 and 9.00: pop music news from Mike Smith between 7.45 and 8.00: horoscopes at 8.35.

The New Adventures of Flash Gordon. *The first of a new series of 13 programmes featuring Flash and his companions, Dale Arden and* Zarkhov 9.20 Battle of the Planets (r) 9.45 Blue Peter Special Assignment. A dramatised documentary about Marie Antoinette's life at Versailles (r) *10.30* Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft (r) 10.55 Gharbar Among the items is Parveen Mizra talking to the Rev Rajinder Daniel of Smethwick about the significance of Christmas 11.20 Emil and the Detectives. Part one of a two-part Walt Disney adaptation of Eric Kastner's classic tale (r) 12.05 Look Back with Noakes. A review of the Go With Noakes series.

News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes Joe Loss and his Orchestra 1.45 Hokey Cokey 2.00 Bank Holiday Fair. A visit to Hampton Court's fair (r).

5 Film: East Side of Heaven* (1939) starring Bing Crosby as a crooning cab-driver who finds an abandoned baby. Directed by David Butler 3.53 Regional news (not London).

55 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Iain *Lauchlan 4.20 The Adventures* of Bullwinkle and Rocky.

25 Jackanory. Jan Francis with part three of Peter Pan 4.40 Screen Test: Champion of Champions. The winner and runners-up of the 1982 and 1983 contest in the final *programme of the series* 5.05 Newsround with Paul McDowell 5.10 Carrie's War. *The final episode.*

0 Sixty Minutes includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40; regional news magazines at 5.53; weather at 6.15; and *closing headlines* at 6.38.

0 Harty. With Rod Hull and Emu, the Only Fools and Horses team and Shakin' Stevens.

5 Film: Something Big (1971) starring Dean Martin, Brian Keith and Honor Blackman. Lighthearted western about a *gang leader who ransoms the* colonel's wife for a large gun with which he intends to pull off a big bank raid. Directed by Andrew V. McLagen.

0 News with John Humphrys.

5 Q.E.D. Eyewitness Evidence . . . Fact or Fiction? A *follow-up* to last week's programme which ended with a staged mugging. Viewers were asked to 'phone in and state the identity of the mugger. Tonight sees the results of the response (see Choice).

5 *Film: The Fog* (1979) *starring* Jamie Lee Curtis. A night of terror awaits the population of Antonio Bay as *fog begins to* descend. Directed by John Carpenter (first showing on British television).

23 News headlines.

25 Barbara Mandrell with her sisters and guests Bobby Vinton and Andrea Crouch (r).

30 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton. A review of the morning newspapers at 6.25: *news* at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.50, sport at 6.55 and 7.40 excerises at 6.45, John Stapleton with a guest in the Spotlight at 7.05; the Star of Bethlehem saga continues at 7.35; *pop video* at 7.55; Desmond Morris's magic moments at 8.05; TV-am's *Christmas hamper awards* at 8.15; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35; and the *cooking clinic* at 8.50. 9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street where the Muppets make learning seem simple 10.25 Film: Mysterious Island (1951) starring Michael Craig, Joan Greenwood and Herbert Lom. *An adventurous romp* based on a story by Jules Verne. Directed by Cy *Endfield*.

12.00 Button Moon. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family 12.10 Rainbow (r) 12.30 Look Who's Talking. With Derek Batey, talking about his life and career, is comedian Charlie Williams.

1.00 News with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news *from* Robin Houston 1.30 Robert Meyer – *A Debt Repaid*. A documentary celebrating the 104th birthday of one of the world's greatest patrons of music. The narrator is Bernard Levin (r) 2.30 A Country Practice. Tales from a medical practice in the Australian outback 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

4.00 Emu's World at Christmas. *Rod Hull and his erratic pet* discover a medieval kingdom 4.45 Madabout. One of the *many items is a trip to the* Longstone Lighthouse on the Farne Islands 5.15 Diff'rent Strokes.

5.45 News 6.00 Thames news.

6.25 Help! Community action news.

6.35 Crossroads. Paul Ross opens his mouth and lands himself a chore he did not want.

7.00 Name That Tune. Tom O'Connor presents another in the series of fast moving musical quizzes.

7.30 Coronation Street. Rita learns a little more about why Len was where he was when he died while the pigeon race of the decade ends in *controversy when the winning* bird crosses the line in unusual circumstances.

8.00 This is Your Life. Another worthy's emotions will be reduced to jelly by Eamonn Andrews and his big red book.

8.30 Up the Elephant and Round *the Castle.* Comedy series about the adventures of a cockney boy.

9.00 Chessgame. More mystery for Dr Audley and his team of sleuths when an Oxford professor thinks that the mysterious death of one of his students is the beginning of a communist conspiracy.

10.00 News.

10.15 Film: The Long Riders (1980) starring David, Keith and Robert Carradine and Stacy and James Keach. The James brothers and the Youngers *decide* to go straight – but before they do they think they will pull one more train *robbery. Directed by* Walter Hill.

12.05 Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning, by Zia Kruger. A young bride finds she is unwelcome on her husband's estate (r).

12.35 A Different Christmas. Gillian *Reynolds talks to someone* who will be enjoying an alternative Christmas to the traditional.



Placido Domingo and Mirella Freni in Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's film, Madame Butterfly: Channel 4 9.00pm.

CHOICE

● Tonight's last programme in the present *Q.E.D.* series is a follow-up programme to the ending of last week's edition when a staged mugging was shown. Viewers were invited to telephone in with the identity of the attacker. *In* EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE . . . FACT OR FICTION? (BBC1 9.25pm) Dr *Anthony Clare analyses the* responses of the viewing public at the same time proving that the *human mind is extremely fallible* – instanced in one case where a viewer recalled the accent of the *mugger although on the film clip* he did not speak. With a succession of tests Dr Clare gives the viewers a *chance* to test his or her power of recall and a chastening experience that turns *out to be. The Q.E.D. cameras* were also at a court in West Virginia for the trial of James *Adkins, accused of armed* robbery after being arrested on the evidence of three eye-*witnesses – a diverting* entertainment for the viewer but not so for the innocent *incarcerated on the strength of* the dubious memory of a bystander.

● *BBC Bristol's excellent* NATURE series (BBC 2 8.30pm) comes to the end of its present *run in bloodthirsty fashion tonight* when Brian Leith volunteers his body for treatment by leeches. *Recent research has proved that* this centuries-old method of treating many ailments is, in some cases, *more effective* than modern medicines.

BBC 2

4.15 Film: Every Girl Should Be Married* (1948) starring Cary Grant, Betsy Drake and Franchot Tone. A romantic comedy in which Grant plays an unmarried doctor who becomes the object of a shopgirl's desire. Unfortunately for the girl, her employer feels the same way about her. Directed by Don *Hartman (first showing on* British television).

5.35 News summary with subtitles.

5.40 A Wedding on Walton's Mountain. A Walton's Special, the first of three, reuniting the characters of the series The Waltons. The year is 1947 and Erin is engaged to Paul Northridge, but they cannot agree on a wedding date. *While they are dithering,* Ashley, Erin's former fiance, returns, hoping to persuade *her to think again about the* marriage. Directed by Lee Phillips.

7.15 Championship Darts Special. The first of two programmes of highlights from darts competitions shown on BBC this year. Tony Gubba *introduces the match that* became a titanic struggle between two former world *champions, Eric Bristow and* Jockey Wilson, when they met in the semi-final round of the Unipart British Professional Championship at the Coatham Bowl, Redcar.

8.30 Nature. The last programme of the series that looks at wildlife *and the issues affecting the* living world. Presented by Tony Soper (see Choice).

9.00 Entertainment USA. Jonathan King with the last of his weekly series that explores the entertainment world of North America. Tonight he is in New *York where he presents* a programme with a distinctive Christmas atmosphere.

9.25 My Music for Christmas. From the Westminster Theatre, London, Steve Race introduces another in the series of lighthearted musical *contests* between Frank Muir with John Amis against Denis Norden and Ian Wallace.

9.55 Barry at Blenheim. The second and final part of the concert recorded last August when the American singer performed before an audience of 40,000 in the grounds of Blenheim Palace.

10.40 News and weather.

10.45 Film: The Roads of Exile (1978) starring Francois Simon and Dominique Labourier. The first showing on British television for Swiss director, Claude Goretta's powerful biography of the later life of the 18th century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. It traces his search for an hospitable country after he is hounded from France following the publication of his book, Emile. The second and final part of the film is on this channel tomorrow at 11.10 (subtitles). Ends at 12.25.

CHANNEL 4

5.00 Film: The General* (1926) Starring Buster Keaton as Johnnie Gray, an engine driver on the Western and Atlanta Railroad with two loves – Annabelle Lee and his engine, The General. At the outbreak of the American Civil War Johnnie tries to enlist but is turned down by the authorities. They fail to tell him *that it was because he would* be an essential civilian as an engine driver. Annabelle Lee *thinks he is a coward and* refuses to talk to him until he becomes a soldier. Directed by *Keaton and Clyde Bruckman.*

6.30 The Abbott and Costello Show* Tonight's episode finds Lou about to marry a girl he has never met, only corresponded with through a lonely hearts magazine. Bud, in an attempt to stop the *marriage*, convinces Lou that he has amnesia and has already married the girl of his *dreams*.

7.00 Channel Four News with Peter Sissons.

7.50 Comment. On the soap-box this evening is Sebastian Charles, Canon of Westminster.

8.00 Brookside. Marie and Michelle receive the news they have been waiting for in a Christmas card. *To celebrate they dash* down to The Swan where they *find a happy Barry and Terry* who have discovered a new use for the cheap perfume they were unable to sell. Meanwhile, Heather's organizing abilities have breathed new life into Mr Johnsons' business at the same time putting him in a *good mood. Back home in the* Close, Heather is overwhelmed with invitations.

8.30 Priestland Right and Wrong. From the Ironbridge Gorge Industrial Museum, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, Mr Priestland *ponders the Protestant* work ethic in the light of society being unable to provide work for all. If there is no work or the job itself becomes meaningless is it right, asks Mr Priestland, for society to continue to stigmatize the unemployed?

9.00 Madame Butterfly. Placido Domingo introduces this film *of Puccini's tragic opera*, directed by Jean Pierre Ponnelle. Made in 1974, the production includes the finest singers of the time, led by Mirella Freni as the delicious geisha Cho-Cho-San, known as the Butterfly, who falls in love with an American lieutenant, Pinkerton (Placido Domingo). Among the supporting cast are Christa Ludwig as Suzuki and Robert Kerns as Sharpless The opera *is sung in Italian (with English* subtitles) with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra *conducted by Herbert von* Karajan.

11.45 Closedown.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m: VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Today. Including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 6.45, Prayer for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 Today's News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly.
10.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time visits *Shropshire*.
10.30 Morning Story: 'Can I Stay Here?' by John O'Hara. Read by *Shirly Dixon.*
10.45 Daily Service.
11.00 News; Travel; Baker's Dozen with Richard Baker.
11.48 What's in a Name? Denis Owen examines the strange origins of names (5).
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 The Magic Carpet Seven-part dramatization by David Beatty, *of the story of the R101 airship* (4). 12.55 Weather; Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Women's Hour Today's edition includes an item on the plan to improve GPs' relationship with patients through the Patients' Liaison Committee. And Anna Massey reads the final episode of The Ladies of Lyndon.
3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Mademoiselle Pearl, by Guy de *Maupassant adapted by* Sue Glover. With Claire Neilson in the title role, and David Rintoul and Frank Middlemass. It is the story of a visit to a family on Twelfth Night and the discovery of how Mademoiselle Pearl came to be part of that family.
3.47 Time for verse: The Song of Hiawatha (6).
4.00 News; Just After Four. Roger Worsley continues his series about music hall recording pioneers.
4.10 Fighting Back. Last of four programmes investigating the resilience of the human spirit. *4:* Economic Trauma. Vincent Kane talks to three people who have *had to face up to financial* disaster – Jeffrey Archer and Charles Ware, and Jane *Williams*.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Shepherd' by Frederick Forsyth (3).
5.00 News Magazine 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather; Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News; Financial Report.
6.30 My Music Seasonal edition of the musical quiz.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Ray Gosling – In The House Of . . . (new series) 1: Bill Morris. *A first-hand glimpse of a day in the life of a top union man.* Mr Gosling visits Transport House to meet Bill Morris, the busman's national secretary. Born in Jamaica, he is a full-time official of the Transport and General Workers' Union.
7.45 The Black And The Grey The story of Comrie Camp in *Scotland, and its part in an* experiment to attempt to change the ideology of a nation. Written *by Mike Healey (r).*
8.40 Christmas on 4. Dilly Barlow casts her eyes over the treats in store.
8.45 Analysis. The Half Life of French Socialism. With John Ardagh.
9.30 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine. Tonight's edition includes items on the two BBC 2 Shakespeare productions, Comedy of Errors *and Two Gentlemen of Verona,* on the record Portrait of Kiri te Kanawa, and on the play *Special Occasions at the Ambassadors* in London. 9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.30 The Burkiss Way.†
11.00 A Book At Bedtime: 'Ask Mamma' by R. S. Surtees (13).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.10 Weather.
12.15 Shipping Forecast. ENGLAND. VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Travel. *1.55 Listening Corner.* 5.50-5.55 PM (continued. 11.00-11.30 Study On 4: L'Italia del *Vivo*.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice: part one. *Schubert* (Adagio and Rondo Concertante, D 847), Tallis (Mass: Puer natus est nobis), *Tarrega* (Variations on Carnival in Venice, with Alesandre Lagoya, guitar).†
8.00 News.
8.05 Grieg (Morning, Arabian Dance: Anitra's Dance; Solveig's Song – Peer Gynt), and Beethoven (Symph No 2 – arranged for piano trio).†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Stravinsky. Michael Beroff plays the Serenade in A. We also hear *the Berceuses du chat (Ann* Murray, mezzo), Piano Rag Music (Noel Lee, piano), Elegy *for JFK (John Shirley-Quirk,* baritone), and In Memoriam Dylan Thomas (Robert Tear, tenor).†
10.00 Music for Two Pianos: Britten's introduction and Rondo all *Burlesca; Mazurka Elegiaca;* Cyril Scott's Lotus Band; Bax's Red Autumn; and Grainger's Lincolnshire Posy. Played by Richard Markham and David Nettle.†
10.45 BBC Scottish Symphony *Orchestra: with Yannula Pappas* (soprano). Anthony Payne's Spring's Shining Wake (first *performance*), *Turina's* Canto a Seville and, at 11.25 after the interval reading, Tchaikovsky's Symph No 1.†
12.15 Concert Hall: Schumann's Songs and music for piano duet from his children's albums Op 79 *and 85: Spanische Liebeslieder,* Op 138. With Patricia Rozario (soprano), Susan Mason (mezzo), Adrian Thompson (tenor) and Glyn Davenport (baritone).†
1.00 News.
1.05 Jazz Greats: Miles Kington presents records featuring the New Orleans trumpeter Henry 'Red' Allen.†
1.30 Matinee Musicale: Ulster Orchestra, with Ronnie Finlay (harpsichord). Handel, arr Harty (Water Music suite). Walter Leigh (Concertino for harpsichord and strings). *Butterworth's The Banks of* Green Willow; Purcell ed Ferguson (Suite of Lessons), *Ireland's The Holy Boy,* Purcell ed Ferguson (A Song Tune) and Bryan Kelly's Improvizations on Christmas Carols.†
2.30 Beaux Arts Trio of New York: Beethoven's Trio in D, Op 70, No 1 and Mozart's Trio in B Flat, K 502. After the interval at 3.25, Dvorak's Trio in E Minor, Op 90 (Dumky).†
4.00 *Choral* Evensong. Live from St Alban's Church, Holborn.†
4.55 News.
5.00 *Mainly for Pleasure: a selection* presented by Elaine Padmore.†
6.30 Albert Sammons: A recording of his 1935 performance of Elgar's Violin Sonata in E minor, with William Murdoch as his accompanist.†
7.00 Diamond from the Ashes: The rediscovery, early this century, of the Polish poet Cyprian Norwid (he died in 1883) led to his recognition as one of the most original minds in Polish *literature. His centenary is* marked by a reading by Gabriel Woolf and Barbara Leigh-Hunt.
7.30 Studio 7 Concert: The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra plays Nicholas Sackman's Alap (first performance) and David Blake's Rise, Dove (also a first performance). With the bass Willard White, to whom the *Blake work is dedicated.*†
8.35 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
8.55 Jorge Bolet: piano recital. Mendelssohn's Fantasy in F sharp minor, Op 28; Chopin's Sonata in B minor, Op 56; *and* Kreisler, transc Rachmaninov (Liebesleid; Liebesfreud).†
10.00 *Camerarities:* Michael Hordern reads another of Colin McLaren's vignettes. Tonight: The ccc Codex of Bishop Bartos.
10.10 Elliott Carter: the Arditti Quartet play the String Quartet No 1 (1951).†
11.00 The Complete Webern: String Quartet (1905).†
11.15 News. Until 11.18.



François Mitterrand: Analysis. The Half Life of French Socialism (*Radio 4, 8.45pm*)

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00 pm and 9.00); major bulletins 7.00 am, 8.00, 1.00 pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight: headlines 5.30 am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30 (MF/MW).
5.00 am Ray Mooret. 7.30 Terry *Wogant.* 10.00 *Jimmy Youngt.* 12.00 pm Music While You Work with Phil Tate and his Musict. 12.30 Gloria *Hunnifordt.* 2.02 Sports Desk. 4.00 David Hamiltont. 4.02, 5.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunnfinct. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 7.30 Robert Mandell with the *Melachrino* Strings and Orchestrat. 8.15 Listen to the Band with Charlie Chestert. 9.00 *The Organist Entertains in Concert with* Nigel Ogdent. 9.30 Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory. 9.57 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Impressionists with Ray Alan. 10.30 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight. (Stereo from midnight). 1.00 am Folk on 2†. 2.00-5.00 Charles Nove presents You and the Night and the Musict.

Radio 1

News on the half-hour 6.30 am – 9.30 *pm and then at 12.00 midnight* (MF/MW).
6.00 am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith, incl. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Steve Wright. 4.30 Peter Powell, incl. 5.30 Newsbeat. 6.05 Top 30 album chart. 7.00 David Jensen. 10.00-12.00 John Peel's Festive 50 (Listeners' top 50 tracks (nos. 50-41)†. VHF Radios 1 and 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. *10.00 pm With* Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am *Newsdesk.* 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Kings of Jazz. 7.45 Report on *Religion. 8.00 World News.* 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Peebles' Choice. 8.30 Frank Muir Goes Into . . . 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Caught in the Act. 10.15 Breakthrough. 10.30 A Closer Look. 10.50 Recording of the Week. *11.00 World News. 11.09 News About* Britain. 11.15 Something to Show You. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 At Home With . . . 1.45 Two Hundred Years of Piano Playing. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 Frank Muir Goes Into . . . 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Rock Salad. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Monitor. 5.25 New Ideas. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 8.15 Short Story. 9.30 Jazz for the Asking. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book *Choice. 10.30 Financial News.* 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Something to Show You. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Monitor. 12.45 Frank Muir Goes Into . . . 1.15 Outlook: News *Summary. 1.45 Anne of the Five Towns.* 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 London Concert Tradition. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Classical Record Review. 5.45 The World Today.

(All times in GMT)

BBC1 Wales: 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales Headlines. 3.53-3.55 News of Wales Headlines. 5.53 Wales Today. 6.40-7.15 The Happiest Days? 12.00 News and weather. Scotland: 12.55pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 5.53 Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 6.40-7.15 *Beechgrove Carols.* 11.25-12.15am Omnibus. 12.15 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 5.53 Scene Around Six. 11.25-12.15am Omnibus. 12.15 News and weather. England: 5.53pm Regional news magazine. 12.05am Close.

S4C Starts 2.00 pm *Ffalabalam.* 2.15 Oresteia. 4.00 Basketball. 4.55 Pictiwrs Bach. 5.00 Ffes Y Dyn Plastig. *5.30 Munsters. 6.00 Brookside.* 6.30 Chicago Teddy Bears. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Yr Igian. 8.20 Y Byd ar Bedwar. 8.50 Film: Hollywood Cavalcade (Keystone Kops). 10.35 Priestland, Right and Wrong. 11.05 People to People. 11.55 Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.00-12.10 Button Moon 1.20-1.30 News 5.15-5.45 Metal Mickey 6.00 Channel Report 6.30 Crossroads 6.55 Mysterious Tales 12.00 Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

HTV WEST As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Christmas Carol. 6.00-6.35 News. 12.10am Johnny Mathis. 12.40 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six.

TVS As London except: 1.20pm News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.35 Farmhouse Kitchen. 2.10 Afternoon Club Christmas Revue. 2.40 Whose *Baby? 3.10 Newsbreak. 3.20 Sons and* Daughters. 3.45-4.00 Guest of the Day. 5.15-5.45 Magic Micro Mission. 6.00-*6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.10am Company,* Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25 *pm-9.30* Day Ahead. 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.30 A Christmas Memory. 3.30-4.00 Amazing Years of the Cinema. 5.15-5.45 Magic Micro Mission. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30-6.35 Gift at Christmas. 12.05 Gift at *Christmas.* 12.10 News, Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 1.20pm News 1.30 Survival of the Fittest 2.00 Take the High Road 2.30-3.30 Sharks Don't Die 5.15-*5.45 Magic Micro Mission* 6.00 Crossroads 6.25-7.00 News 12.10pm Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Granada Reports 3.30-3.40 Young Doctors 5.15-*5.45 Diff'rent Strokes 6.00 This is Your* Right 6.05 Crossroads 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports 12.05am House Calls 12.40 Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Scottish *News. 2.30 The Entertainers. 3.00* Newhart. 3.30-4.00 Dazzle. 5.10 Action Line. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 *Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Report.* 12.10 am Late Call. 12.15 Paramount Short. 12.35 Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 2.30-3.30 QED. 5.15-*5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 News.* 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 12.10 am Cost of Christmas. Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.10 am House Calls. 12.40 Talking of Christmas. Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News 5.15-5.45 Calendar Fashion Show 12.10am Johnny Mathis Chantenoel 12.40 Closedown

TSW As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. *5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today* South West. 6.30-7.00 Scene South West. 12.10 am Postscript, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London, except: 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30 Snow White Christmas. 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 12.10 am Reflections. 12.15 News. *Closedown.*

BORDER As London except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. *5.15-5.45 Magic Micro* Mission. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 12.10 am News, Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

Entertainments

CINEMAS

EXHIBITIONS

ART GALLERIES



Rate Bill faces big test in Lords

Continued from page 1

Councils, which represents many such authorities, said that the Bill "threatens even greater interference in the affairs and activities of local authorities than was originally feared."

The Association of County Councils, also led by Conservatives, said: "The case has still not been made for such unprecedented powers." It said that the supposedly objective assessment through which the councils could escape selective capping could be changed.

The Bill gives ministers the power to rewrite from year to year the vaguely defined criteria on which they will pick councils for capping. It will allow Mr Jenkin to select a council for capping in 1985 "if it appears to him that its total expenditure in that year is likely to be excessive having regard to general economic conditions."

● Dr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman on the Environment, pledged yesterday that a Labour government would repeal the legislation if Mr Jenkin managed, "by hook or by crook" to get it through Parliament (Our Political Correspondent writes).

He added: "For the first time since 1601, Whitehall will have dictatorial powers over every local authority in the land."

Parliament, page 4
Leading article, page 13

Israeli aircraft watch Arafat armada sail out

Continued from page 1

loyalists before their evacuation (Christopher Walker writes).

It claimed that, despite US pressure, no formal guarantees of safe passage had been given to either Greece or France.

A senior official told *The Times*: "We are satisfied that by our actions we got over the point that Mr Arafat was leaving by our favour, and not from any form of devine justice or in any legitimate way. We believe that what we did showed up the true nature of the evacuation.

"The purpose of our policy was to demonstrate that the whole question of safe passage for such terrorists is one that is open to discussion at all times. It is not something they were entitled to by right, as they might have believed."

Arafat's Odyssey, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Photographer of rare imagination







The death of Bill Brandt in London at the age of 79 has robbed the world of the acknowledged master of twentieth century British photography.

Brandt brought to documentary and nude photography a rare imagination and intelligence. The high point of his documentary work was reached during the thirties with the publication of *The British at Home* and *A Night in London*.

Brandt's camera ranged from the East End poor to the inhabitants of fashionable London and set a new standard for documentary photography. Never again was he to achieve such heights in this particular genre. Instead his attention turned more and more to the nude: using relatively simple equipment, he brought about the distortion of limbs that we recognize as his alone. An exhibition of his work opens at the Victoria and Albert Museum next March.

The Times's selection from his work covers the late thirties to the early forties. A parlourmaid prepares a bath before dinner; frost encrasts a statue in Crystal Palace Gardens in London; and two girls enjoy the sun as a fisherman waits for a bite.

Obituary, page 14

Police trace dealer who sold bomb car

Continued from page 1

demonstrations in the East End of London and in Trafalgar Square, drawing police strength at a time when officers were needed elsewhere.

Scotland Yard said that it recognized the right to free speech but "during these troublesome days it would be helpful if potential demonstrators advised us of their plans".

CND said that the demonstrations were spontaneous after rumours that a cruise missile was due to leave the Greenham Common air base. "Had we known, we might have suggested the demonstrations did not take place."

● The Prime Minister, prompted by a backbench MP, pointed out in the Commons yesterday that money given by Irish Americans to the IRA might have resulted in the death of an American citizen and the injury of others in the Harrods bombing on Saturday (Our Political Editor writes).

She said the Government condemned as strongly as had President Reagan the money going to Noraid, the Irish Northern Aid Committee, which is believed by the Government to be the principal fund-raising body for the IRA in the United States.

Mrs Thatcher said that money for Noraid was given to those who rejected democracy and pursued the ends of violence, death and destruction of innocent people.

Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside, had asked her to endorse a similar statement by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, when interviewed on American breakfast television on Monday. Mr Colvin said the tragic death of an American might bring home that money given to Noraid "does not go to help widows and orphans, but to create them".

Mr John Hume, of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, asked the Prime Minister to "dampen the hysteria" about Irish-American support for violence. The vast majority of the 44 million Irish Americans did not support it, and their opposition was forcibly expressed by their leaders.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that the overwhelming majority of American and Irish people condemned violence as a means of pressing political ends.

Parliament page 4

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Determined mood by the Welsh

The chief Opposition spokesman on Wales yesterday produced a late, but surely unbeatable entrant for least worrying accusation by a politician in 1983: "This is a black day for local government in Wales".

Presumably the chief Opposition spokesman on Wales did not intend his remarks to excite so little concern. It must be assumed that we were supposed to feel outrage. But as far as non-Welsh citizens are concerned, if we are to have black days then most people would not complain if they are confined to local government in Wales. But if you are Opposition spokesman on Wales, it is extremely difficult to get people to remember who you are.

The present incumbent's difficulty in this respect is added to by the fact that, like most Welsh males, his name is Mr Jones.

An Opposition spokesman on Wales named Mr Jones starts out with an enormous disadvantage when trying to make his way in the world. The combination of name and subject is the problem. He probably qualifies for all sorts of grants, reverse discrimination, remedial tuition and visits from social workers under various progressive legislation.

There was no doubt yesterday that this Mr Jones *thought* he was being suitably inflammatory and demogogic. It was just that society – on learning that his name is Jones and that his subject was Welsh local government – was prejudiced against remembering who he was or what was his speciality.

The real Secretary for Wales, whose name is Mr Edwards, rose to make a statement on Welsh rate-capping. Society, in the form of hundreds of MPs for non-Welsh constituencies, fled the chamber in desperation. That is always what happens when experts on Welsh local government move into the neighbourhood. A forlorn band of Welsh members were left to ponder Welsh rate-capping.

The one named Jones, who was marginally distinct from all the others named Jones in being the chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, went into action once Mr Edwards sat down. Desperately, Mr Jones simulated anger. "This is an authoritarian document", he began. And for many sentences he reacted to Welsh rate-capping as if it were Irish knee-capping. "... flagrant act of injustice ... freedom of local governm[ent] at risk ... bureaucr[atic] dictatorship forcing cou[nci]lors to be the very [ex]ecutioners of their o[wn] services..."

Buried in all that was [a] sensationally bathetic [an]nouncement of the black d[ay] for Welsh local governme[nt]. But, that apart, after a w[hile] one came to the conclus[ion] that this Mr Jones, whoever [he] may be, was doing rather w[ell]. Perhaps too well. He [was] coming perilously close [to] making Welsh local gov[ern]ment exciting, a human dra[ma] peopled by executioners do[ing] in their own services a[nd] authoritarians doing flagra[nt] things with documents. C[er]tainly, he made Welsh l[ocal] much more interesting th[an] did Dylan Thomas.

Mr Edwards, the Secreta[ry] of State, accused Mr Jones [of] exaggerating.

Exaggerating was brisk [all] day long, with hopes of reco[rd] exaggerations by the time th[e] doors close at Westmins[ter] tomorrow afternoon. M[r] Norman Tebbit the Minis[ter] of State at Trade and Indus[try] arrived to announce th[at] Britoil had cancelled an ord[er] for an oil rig on the Clyde o[n] the reasonable-soundi[ng] ground that the shipyard w[as] very late in building it.

The chief Oppositi[on] spokesman on Scotland, M[r] Donald Dewar, perhaps mind[ful] of the standards already se[t] by Wales announced that [it] was all a disgrace and tha[t] moreover, it was "lacking i[n] humility and humanity".

But Wales was in dete[r]mined mood yesterday. A Welsh member had on th[e] order paper a question asking if the Secretary of State would publish "the number of beds, patients and special units expressed as the number of available staff beds, and the number of resident patients and as a percentage of their occupancy during special in-patient units or wards in each mental illness hospital and unit in Wales".

In a written reply, Mr Wy[n] Roberts, of the Welsh Office, struck a blow for us innume[r]ates by responding: "I regret that I am unable to understand the question as posed". The questioner was Mr Dafydd Thomas, the Welsh Nationalist member for what was described as "Meirion[n]ydd Nant Conwy". I regre[t] that I am unable to understand the constituency as posed.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, attends the Annual Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, 6.55.

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend the London Fire Brigade's Annual Service of Carols, Central Hall, Westminster.

Last chance to see

Cecil Maguire, the Bell Gallery, 13 Adelaide Park, Malone Road, Belfast 9; Mon to Fri 9 to 5 (ends today).

Christmas exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and ceramics, Festival Gallery, Pierrepont Place, Bath, Tues to Sat 11-5, closed Sun and Mon.

Carol Services

Cathedral School Carol Services, Lincoln Minster, Lincoln, 2.30.

Carols by candlelight by the City of Bath Bach Choir Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Concert of Christmas music by the West Riding Singers, Holy Trinity Parish Church, Cookridge, Leeds, 7.45.

Carols concert by Cynthia Glover (soprano), Watford Town Hall, Watford, 7.30.

BBC Wales Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Luke's Church, Cardiff, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Ben Nicholson: The Years of Experiment 1919-1939; City Museum & Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sunday (ends Jan 8).

Petals from a Lotus: exotic artifacts from India, Cliffe Castle, Spring Gardens Lane, Keighley; Tues to Sun 10-6 (closed Mon, except Bank Hols) ends July 1984.

Victorian Paintings Workshop; Crafts for Christmas; Leicester Guild of Craftsmen, both exhibitions at Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Friday (Victorian paintings ends Jan 3; Crafts, Dec 28).

Paintings, Prints and Drawings by David Hack, Sarah James, Nicholas Sheath and Nigel Tomlinson, Exhibition Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Southampton College of Higher Education, East Park Terrace, Southampton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jan 13).

Christmas exhibition of paintings by Falmouth Schoolchildren, Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun and 22 December to 2 January inclusive (ends Jan 6).

Anniversaries

Births: Leopold von Ranke, author of the *History of the Papacy* and considered as the father of archival history, Wiehe, Germany, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bt, mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister, 1868, 1874-80, London, 1804; Mily Balakirev composer (New Style Jan 2), Nijni Novgorod, Russia. Deaths: Giovanni Boccaccio, author of the *Decameron*, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, author of *The Great Gatsby*, Hollywood, 1940.

Christmas cash

Outside dispensing machines will be open at most banks which have the facility over the Christmas and New Year periods. There are now twice as many dispensers as there were a year or so ago so if one is empty there should be another nearby. This will be particularly helpful to NatWest and Midland Bank customers because these banks have sharing arrangements.

Fire warning

The Home Office fire statistics for 1982, just published, have a cautionary note for this home-bodied festive season. Not counting chimney fires, just over a quarter of all fires last year occurred in buildings and most of them house fires. The most common cause (26 per cent) of these building fires was the accidental misuse of appliances, usually cooking equipment; faulty equipment accounted for another 18 per cent, deliberate ignition for 14 per cent, and carelessness as in the disposal of cigarettes, for a further 10 per cent.

First novels of year

The Literary Editor's selection of first novels of the year:
Aisha, by Ahdaf Soueif (Cape, £7.50)
Brilliant Creatures, by Clive James (Cape, £7.95)
Coming From Behind, by Howard Jacobson (Chatto & Windus, £7.95)
Flying to Nowhere, by John Fuller (Salamander, £5)
Holy Pictures, by Clare Boylan (Hamish Hamilton, £7.95)
Hunt for the Autumn Clowns, by M. S. Power (Chatto & Windus, £3.50)
Jumping the Queue, by Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £7.95)
Lord of the Dance, by Robin Lloyd-Jones (Gollancz, £8.95)
Separate Tracks, by Jane Rogers (Faber, £7.95)
The Wolf, by Max Davidson (Quartet, £7.95).

PH

Roads

London and South-east: A249: Auto signals on Maidstone/Sittingbourne road, from M2 bridge to Sittingbourne carriageway, no diversions. A12: Single lane in off-peak hours between Whalebone Lane, Dagenham and Mawney Road, Romford. A4088: Contraflow between Blackbird Hill and Neasden Lane; one lane in each direction.

Midlands: A1: Contraflow southbound north of Normans Cross, Cambridgeshire. A14: Lane closures at Huntingdon by-pass. A429: Roadworks on Wellesbourne-Stow road at Halford, Warwickshire.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures between junction 32 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant; delays. A40: Temporary lights with diversion and delays on Bancyfelin-Camarthen road. M5: Both carriageways resurfaced between junction 26 (Wellington) and 27 (Tiverton).

North: A61: Resurfacing work along Barnsley Road, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. A688: Reconstruction at Bonemill Bank, Bishop Aukland. A74: Single lane traffic and contraflow on Moss Band viaduct between Carlisle and Gretna Green.

Scotland: A68: All southbound and northbound traffic over 30cwt diverted north of Dalkeith; northbound traffic reduced to a single lane.

A92: Single-lane traffic, delays at peak periods in Central Esplanade, Kirkcaldy. A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Peebles.

Information supplied by AA.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.66	1.56
Austria Sch	28.85	27.25
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.75
Canada $	1.83	1.76
Denmark Kr	14.74	14.04
Finland Mkk	8.68	8.28
France Fr	12.30	11.80
Germany DM	4.06	3.87
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	2450.00	2340.00
Japan Yen	349.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.58	4.35
Norway Kr	11.52	10.92
Portugal Esc	194.00	184.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Pta	231.00	221.00
Sweden Kr	11.98	11.38
Switzerland Fr	3.26	3.09
USA $	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	216.00	206.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.
Retail Price Index: 341.9
London: The *FT* Index closed up 7.7 at 769.8

The papers

The Washington Post says that it is worth "springing" Yasser Arafat, even this second time in an attempt to end what it calls the "cruel end game" of Lebanon. "It seems he will survive and, more than that, return soon to the international scene. But has he not accumulated an obligation to those who are letting him leave? Has he not accumulated a far deeper obligation to his own people to take the step that some Palestinian leader eventually must take to move his people toward their goal of a homeland? Little in Yasser Arafat's career suggests he is the man to relinquish terror, manoeuvre and ambiguity to pursue an open course towards coexistance with Israel. The question is whether he can bring himself, at this moment, to risk the one course that conceivably offers results."

Commenting on the Japanese elections the English-language daily Japan Times says: "If the election was a plebiscite on the 'Tanaka issue', voters as a whole made it clear that they do not approve of a party that is dominated by a convicted ex-Prime Minister and of the 'pork barrel' politics he and his followers are believed to represent. The Liberal Democratic Party failed to secure not only a working majority of 270 but also a simple majority of 256 in the 511-seat House of Representatives. The number of seats it gained – 250 – means a major defeat for the ruling party, which held 286 seats in the Lower House before the election. Voters did, in effect, what the Diet had failed to do. The election was called as a direct result of the Parliamentary impasse over the handling of a joint Opposition resolution calling for the voluntary resignation of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, by either voting against the LDP or abstaining. Many people disapproved of the way the LDP ignored the overwhelming public outcry for Mr Tanaka's resignation. The great irony is that Mr Tanaka himself garnered the largest number of votes of his long political career – a figure that far exceeded even the number he collected while he was Prime Minister."

Parliament today

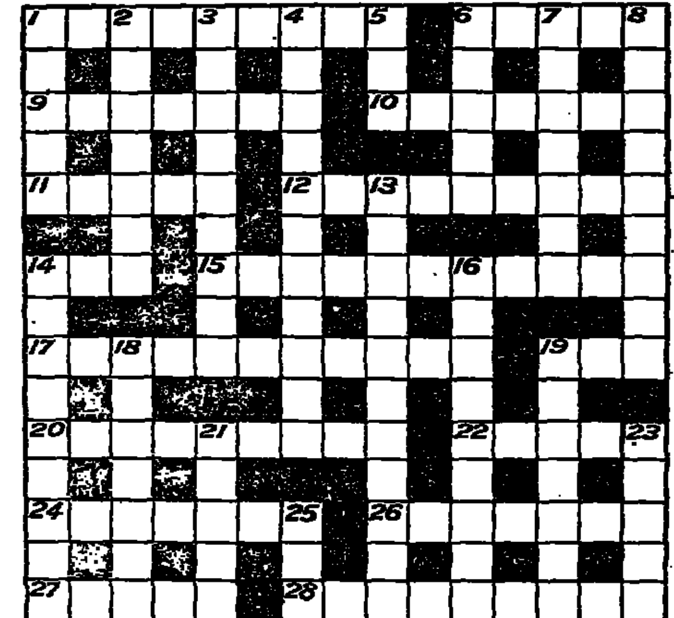
Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (11): Coal Industry Bill, Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, and Animal Health and Welfare Bill, second readings.

Law courts

The Michaelmas sittings at the Royal Courts of Justice end today.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,315



ACROSS
1 They take off and stop raids somehow (9).
6 Such amassed stock auditor takes for large company (5).
9 Sudden collapse of French import (7).
10 Onset of egalitarianism possibly limits this (7).
11 Pervasive atmosphere of a foreign capital (5).
12 For a skilful player, I act doubly badly with 27 (9).
14 Small thing I must have in the other case (3).
15 Notable split? (11).
17 Sea-going crew seen on TV (7,4).
19 Strange as what follows and precedes this (3).
20 Cheese very successful in the long run (9).
22 Old man of Paris (5).
24 Russian beauty put in the shade (7).
26 Science producing sort of bomb in any case (7).
27 Lord whose opponents shall never meet (5).
28 It can give an edge to the news broadcast (9).

DOWN
1 Turn up to help with work, showing where speakers stand (5).
2 One in a cage – almost worth getting birdseed plant (7).
3 Ordering neat gin at police department? Just the reverse (9).
4 A super act 150 contrived (11).
5 Understand a couple of points one repeated (3).
6 There's one in Panama, say, and one in Caribbean (5).
7 Muses, as one starts to get silly (7).
8 Was charitable about many I ruled (9).
13 Wimbledon, for example, is nothing special (11).
14 Collected relations of French doctor (9).
16 Races across the Channel James wrote about (9).
18 Apart from a partner of 27, in lower position (7).
19 Gold coin, perhaps, and ring, in South American banks (7).
21 She's repeatedly in bed – it helped, I think (5).
23 Honour always included, perhaps (5).
25 Half of Joyce's fruit (3).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,314

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Weather

A complex depression over Northern Ireland will move northeastwards.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, E, W Midlands: Showers or longer periods of rain, becoming brighter and drier later; wind SW strong locally gale becoming W moderate or fresh, max 8-9C (46-48F).

E, Central N, NE, NW England, Lake District: Showers or longer periods of rain, some bright or sunny intervals; winds S fresh or strong becoming W moderate or fresh; max temp 7-8C (45-46F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S, N Wales: Showers or longer periods of rain, becoming brighter and mainly dry later; wind SW strong, locally gale becoming moderate or fresh later; max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands: Showers or longer periods of rain, some bright intervals; wind S fresh or strong locally gale, veering W moderate; max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, showers or longer outbreaks of rain, becoming brighter and drier later; wind light and variable becoming W moderate; max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain, heavy at times, hill fog, wind NE strong locally gale becoming NW moderate or fresh; max temp 6-7C (43-45FF).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Continuing unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain, but also sunny intervals; temperatures high or a little above normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SW, strong decreasing fresh; sea rough becoming moderate. English Channel (E): Wind SW fresh; sea moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW strong decreasing fresh; sea rough becoming moderate.

Sun rises: 8.04am Sun sets: 3.53pm
Moon rises: 5.15pm Moon sets: 9.39am
Last quarter December 26.

Lighting-up time

London 4.23 pm to 7.34 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.44 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 8.12 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.53 am
Penzance 4.52 pm to 7.49 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

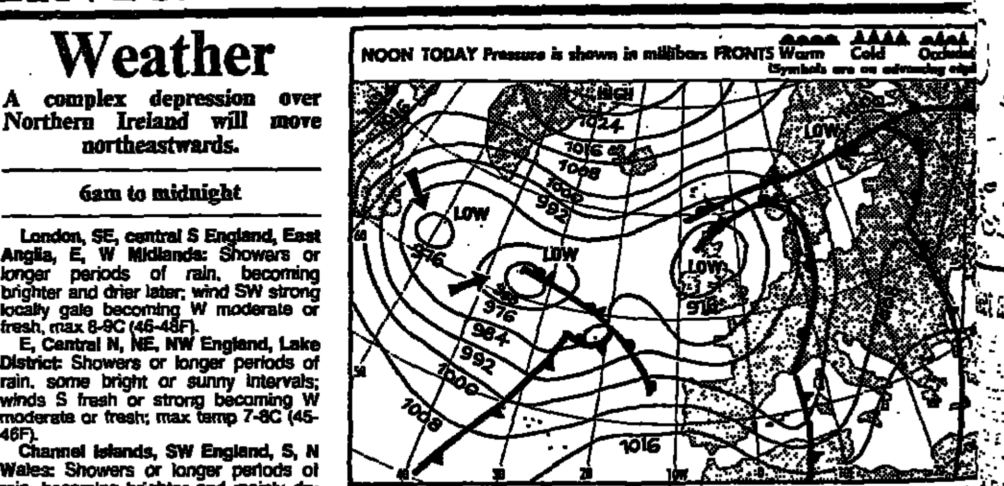
		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	7	45	Guernsey	f	10	50
Birmingham	r	7	45	Inverness	r	6	43
Blackpool	r	7	45	Jersey	f	10	50
Bristol	f	10	50	London	r	10	50

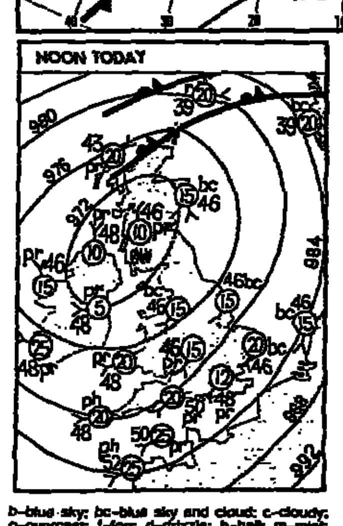
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Guernsey, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Lerwick, 5C (4F); highest rainfall: Exmouth, Teignmouth, 1.22in; highest sunshine: Guernsey, 3.2hr.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 68 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.20in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.8hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 978.7 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.





b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.18	7.1	2.34	7.2
Aberdeen	1.41	4.3	1.59	4.4
Avonmouth	7.49	13.2	8.16	13.[illegible]
Belfast	11.32	3.7	11.51	3.[illegible]
Cardiff	7.34	12.1	8.00	12.1
Devonport	6.27	5.5	6.53	5.[illegible]
Dover	11.29	6.6	-	-
Falmouth	5.57	5.3	6.23	5.2
Glasgow	1.15	4.3	1.21	5.0
Harwich	12.09	3.8	12.31	4.[illegible]
Holyhead	10.49	5.7	11.15	5.[illegible]
Hull	6.52	7.3	7.10	7.3
Ilfracombe	6.27	9.3	6.53	9.[illegible]
Leith	2.58	5.6	3.250	5.8
Liverpool	11.49	9.5	-	-
Lowestoft	10.07	2.5	10.24	2.5
Margate	12.22	4.8	12.35	4.[illegible]
Milford Haven	6.46	7.1	7.13	7.[illegible]
Newquay	5.35	7.1	6.03	7.[illegible]
Oban	6.07	4.1	6.44	4.[illegible]
Penzance	5.24	5.6	5.52	5.5
Portland	7.34	2.3	8.10	2.[illegible]
Portsmouth	11.59	4.7	-	-
Shoreham	11.44	6.3	-	-
Southampton	11.28	4.6	11.59	4.5
Swansea	6.50	9.6	7.17	9.5
Tees	4.05	5.4	4.25	5.5
Walton-on-Naze	12.03	4.2	12.21	4.[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	-	.20	8	46	Cloudy
Bridlington	-	.18	8	46	Cloudy
Cromer	-	.09	8	46	Showers
Lowestoft	-	.07	8	46	Rain am
Clacton	-	.09	8	46	Rain am
Margate	*	.26	10	50	Rain
Folkestone	0.2	.28	10	50	Rain
Hastings	0.2	.28	10	50	Rain am
Eastbourne	-	.37	11	52	Rain
Worthing	0.1	.28	11	52	Rain am
Littlehampton	1.0	.24	11	52	Rain am
Bognor R	1.5	.25	10	50	Rain am
Southsea	1.2	.35	11	52	Cloudy
Shanklin	1.6	.30	11	52	Rain am
Bournemouth	1.5	.56	11	52	Gale pm
Poole	2.0	*	11	52	Showers
Weymouth	1.4	.46	11	52	Showers
Exmouth	1.1	1.22	11	52	Thunder
Torquay	0.9	1.16	12	54	Thndr pm
Falmouth	-	.89	11	52	Showers
Penzance	0.5	.68	10	50	Gales
Jersey	3.0	.24	11	52	Showers
Guernsey	3.2	.35	12	54	Showers
Newquay	0.3	.76	10	50	Cloudy
Ilfracombe	-	.58	7	45	Rain
Tenby	1.8	.49	10	50	Rain
Southport	-	.17	8	46	Shwrs pm
Morecambe	-	.20	9	48	Rain am
Douglas	-	.50	8	46	Cloudy pm
B'ham (Airpt)	1.1	.66	10	50	Rain
Bristol (Ctrl)	0.6	.63	11	52	Rain
Cardiff (Ctrl)	0.7	.54	10	50	Shwrs pm
Anglesey	1.9	.20	10	50	Rain am
B'pool (Airpt)	-	.12	8	46	Rain
Manchester	0.1	.39	10	50	Rain pm
Nottingham	-	.35	8	46	Rain
N'cstl-n-Tyne	-	.15	8	46	Rain pm
Eskdalemuir	-	.17	7	45	Rain
Glasgow	-	.05	9	48	Rain
Tiree	-	-	9	48	Shwrs pm
Stornoway	0.7	.02	8	46	Cloudy
Edinburgh	-	.16	8	46	Rain
Kinloss	-	.09	8	46	Rain
Aldergrove	-	.14	8	46	Rain pm

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F
Ajaccio	f	12	54
Akrotiri	s	18	64
Alexandria			
Algiers	f	19	66
Amsterdam	f	9	48
Athens	a	17	63
Bahrain	s	17	63
Barbados*	f	29	84
Barcelona	f	14	75
Beirut	f	18	64
Belgrade	c	12	54
Berlin	s	6	43
Bermuda*	c	23	73
Biarritz	s	15	59
Boulogne	r	8	46
Bordeaux	s	15	59
Brussels	f	9	48
Budapest	r	5	41
Buen Aires*	f	31	88
Cairo	f	20	68
Cape Tn	s	22	72
C'blanca	s	19	66
Chicago*	s	1	-17
Cologne	c	9	48
Copenhgn	f	4	39
Corfu	r	16	61
Dallas*	c	-8	18
Dublin	r	6	43
Dubrovnik	c	13	55
Faro	c	17	63
Florence			
Frankfurt	s	8	46
Funchal	f	20	68
Geneva	f	8	46
Gibraltar	c	18	64
Helsinki	c	-3	27
Hongkong			
Innsbruck	c	4	39
Istanbul	f	13	55
Jiddah	s	32	90
Jo'burg	f	23	73
Karachi			
Las Palmas	s	22	72
Lisbon	c	17	63
Locarno	s	3	37
L Angeles	c	6	43
Madrid	r	10	50
Majorca	f	16	61
Malaga	cr	17	63
Malta			
Melbourne	f	39	102
Mexico C*		16	61
Miami*		26	79
Milan	s	5	41
Montreal*		-16	3
Moscow	c	1	34
Munich	s	8	46
Nairobi	c	25	77
Naples			
New Delhi	s	20	68
New York*		-1	30
Nice	s	14	57
Oslo	sn	-2	28
Ottawa			
Paris	c	9	48
Peking	s	3	37
Perth	s	26	79
Prague	c	4	39
Reykjavik	f	1	34
Rhodes	f	18	64
Riyadh	s	18	64
Rio de Jan*	c	30	86
Rome			
Salzburg	f	5	41
Sao Paulo*	f	[illegible]	[illegible]
S Francisco*	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Santiago*	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seoul	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Singapore	f	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
Strasbourg	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sydney	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tangier	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tel Aviv	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenerife	f	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	s	[illegible]	[illegible]
Toronto*		[illegible]	[illegible]
Tunis	f	17	[illegible]
Valencia	f	17	[illegible]
Vancouver		-3	27
Venice	s	7	45
Vienna	r	5	41
Warsaw	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Washington*		2	[illegible]
Zurich	fg	2	[illegible]

* denotes Monday's figures are latest available